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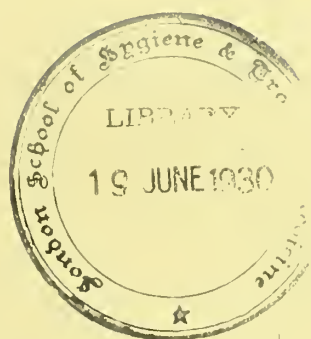
BY

Lady Shirley Murphy

Date August 26th 1929

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F O U R T H

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

ON THE

SWEATING SYSTEM;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

M I N U T E S O F E V I D E N C E,

A N D A P P E N D I X.

Session 1889.

Ordered to be printed 5th August 1889.

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[illegible]

F O U R T H R E P O R T.

BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to continue the inquiry into the “SWEATING SYSTEM” in the UNITED KINGDOM, and to Report thereon to the House from time to time.

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met and have considered the subject referred to them.

The Committee have sat to receive evidence on 71 occasions, and have examined 291 witnesses, comprising clergymen and ministers of various denominations, physicians, statisticians, Government officials, trade societies, co-operative societies, Jewish Board of Guardians, medical officers of health, factory and sanitary inspectors, journalists, manufacturers, middlemen, factors, managers, superintendents, foremen, factory hands, workshop hands, home workers, labourers, and persons interested in social subjects, as to the prevalence of “sweating,” in the following trades:—Clothing, boots and shoes, cabinet making and upholstery, shirt making, mantle making, furrier, saddlery and army accoutrements, nails, chains, gun-locks, nuts and bolts, cutlery, and waterproofing. The localities investigated comprise London, Woolwich, Chatham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Walsall, Dudley, and Cradley Heath and district. Your Committee have also inquired into the sweating system as it affects Government contracts.

Having regard to the late period of the Session, and the fact that they have so lately concluded taking evidence, the Committee feel that they must defer the further consideration of their Report until next Session, in order that they may have ample time to weigh the evidence and discuss their Report.

They have therefore directed the Minutes of Evidence, together with an Appendix, to be laid before your Lordships, and they beg to express their hope that they may be re-appointed next Session for the purpose of making a full report on the evidence taken by them.

5th August 1889.

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Die Lunæ, 25° Februarii, 1889.

SWEATING SYSTEM.

Moved, That a Select Committee be appointed to continue the inquiry into the Sweating System in the United Kingdom, and to report thereon to the House ; and that the Witnesses before the said Select Committee be examined on oath [The Lord Kenry, (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*)] ; agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee :

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Rothschild.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clinton.	Lord Thring.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	

The Committee to meet To-morrow, at half-past Three o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

Die Jovis, 28° Februarii, 1889.

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed for the use of the Members of this House ; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to Members of the Committee and to such other persons as the Committee shall think fit, until further order.

Die Veneris, 1° Martii, 1889.

The Duke of Norfolk and the Lord Basing added to the Select Committee.

Die Lunæ, 11° Martii, 1889.

Message to the Commons for leave for Benjamin Hingley, Esq. (a Member), to attend the Select Committee.

Die Martis, 19° Martii 1889.

Message from the Commons giving leave to Benjamin Hingley, Esq. (a Member), to attend the Select Committee.

Die Jovis, 2° Maii, 1889.

Leave given to the Select Committee to report from time to time : Third Report from the Select Committee made, and to be printed : Minutes of Evidence up to the 12th of April last (with the exception of certain evidence relating to the city of Glasgow), laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

LORDS PRESENT, AND MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT EACH
SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE.

Die Martis, 26^o Februarii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.
Earl Brownlow.
Viscount Gordon (*Earl of Aberdeen*).
Lord Clinton.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and
Mount-Earl*).
Lord Rothschild.
Lord Monkswell.

Order of Reference read.

It is moved, That the Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) do take the Chair.

The same is agreed to.

The course of Proceeding is considered.

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at half-past Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 28^o Februarii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.
Earl Brownlow.
Lord Clinton.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.
Lord Foxford (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and
Mount-Earl*).
Lord Monkswell.
Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *Edward Squire*, M.D., Mr. *Frederick Preston*, L.R.C.P., and the Hon. *Edward Peirson Thesiger*, C.B. (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 5^o Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.
Earl of Derby.
Viscount Gordon (*Earl of Aberdeen*).
Lord Foxford (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and
Mount-Earl*).
Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Monkswell.
Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Thursday last are read.

Order of the House of Thursday last, adding the Duke of Norfolk and the Lord Basing to the Committee, read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *Richard Juggins* and Mr. *Thomas Homer* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 6° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl of Derby.	Lord Rothschild.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *Thomas Homer* (further examined), Mr. *Richard Juggins* (further examined), the
Rev. *Harold Rylett*, *Benjamin Price*, Mrs. *Louisa Addleton* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 7° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Thring.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mrs. *Maria Parish*, *Elizabeth Wright*, Mrs. *Maria Tibbetts*, Mrs. *Emma Parsons*,
Samuel Priest, *Thomas Blunt*, and *William Woodall* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 8° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *Thomas Homer* (further examined), the Rev. *Harold Rylett* (further examined), Mr.
Richard Juggins (further examined), *Thomas Wyle*, *John Price*, and *Thomas Lees* (*vide*
the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 12^o Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Monkswell.
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Thring.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *William Price*, Mrs. *Sarah Hackett*, Mr. *Richard Juggins* (further examined), *Caroline Cox*, *Alice Brettle*, *Jane Smith*, and *Edwin Guest* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 14^o Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *Richard Juggins* (further examined), *Samuel Priest*, and Mr. *George Green*.

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 15^o Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Thring.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *George Green* (further examined), Mr. *J. W. Higgs Walker*, Mr. *John George Reay*, and Mr. *James S. Parry* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 19° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.	Lord Rothschild.
Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *John Lincoln Mahon*, Mr. *David Moore*, Mr. *Joseph Price*, Mr. *James Cox*, and
Mr. *Thomas Cole* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 21° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of Derby.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *John Edward Morris*, Mr. *Hugh Richard Ker*, Mr. *Benjamin Thompson*, and Mr.
Benjamin Hingley, M.P. (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 22° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of Derby.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Sandhurst.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Basing.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*) in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *Adolphe Smith* and Mr. *Walter Bassano* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Monday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Lunæ, 25° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl Brownlow.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Monkswell.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witness is called in, and, having been sworn, is examined, viz.:—Mr. *Charles C. W. Hoare* (*vide* the Evidencee).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 26° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	Lord Thring.
	Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—Mr. *Jabez Smith*, Mr. *Alfred Booth*, and Mr. *George Potton* (*vide* the Evidencee).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 28° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	Lord Thring.
	Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—Mr. *George Potton* (further examined), Mr. *Jabez Smith* (further examined), Mr. *Benjamin Squire*, and Mr. *Charles Edward Tomlin* (*vide* the Evidencee).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 29° Martii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Monkswell.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
George H. Woodcock, John Dutnell, Mr. John Leckie, Mr. Rowland Mason, Lieutenant Colonel N. Willoughby Wallace, and Mr. Evan C. Nepean, C.B. (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 4° Aprilis, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. Evan C. Nepean, C.B. (further examined), Mr. Stuart Uttley, Mr. George Edward Hukin, and Mr. Charles Law (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 5° Aprilis, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. Charles Law (further examined), Mr. John Wilson, and Mr. William John Davis (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 11^o Aprilis, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witnessss are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *George Potton* (further examined), Mr. *Jabez Smith* (further examined), *Daniel McLaughlin*, *Francis Gallagher*, *John Munday*, Mrs. *Catherine Letham* (or *Nugent*), *Thomas Carey*, and Mr. *Hyman Samuel* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 12^o Aprilis, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Danraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *Clement Kinloch Cooke*, Mr. *Jabez Smith* (further examined), Lieutenant-Colonel *N. Willoughby Wallace* (further examined), and *Robert Buxton* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday, the 2nd of May, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 2^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven aud Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday, the 12th of April last, are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. *Julius Pinto*, Mr. *James Pittkethley*, Mr. *James Burn Russell*, M.D., and Mr. *George Sedgwick* (*vide* the Evidence).

A DRAFT REPORT is laid before the Committee by the Chairman.

The same is read, and agreed to (*vide* the Report).

Ordered, That the Lord in the Chair do make the said Report to the House.

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned, till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 9^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS' PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Earl Brownlow.	Lord Rothschild.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clinton.	Lord Thring.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Basing.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Thursday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn (Mr. *Henderson* affirming), are examined, viz.:—Mr. *Neil M'Lean*, Mr. *James C. Laird*, Mr. *James Henderson*, Mr. *Charles C. W. Hoare*, and Mr. *Edward Smith* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 10^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Lord Clinton.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—Mr. *Edmund John Shannon*, *Edward Pugh*, and Mr. *Charles C. W. Hoare* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 14^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl of Derby.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clinton.	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—Mr. *Joseph Abrahams*, Mr. *Harris Davies*, Mr. *Louis Rosenberg*, Mr. Alderman *William Cook*, Mr. *Seymour Henry Knypett*, and Mr. *Rowland Tinker* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 16^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Duke of Norfolk.
 Earl of Derby.
 Earl Brownlow.
 Viscount Gordon (*Earl of Aberdeen*).
 Lord Clinton.
 Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.
 Lord Foxford (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).
 Lord Sandhurst.
 Lord Monkswell.
 Lord Thring.
 Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
 Mr. John Belmer Goodman, Sarah Block, Annie Davies, Mr. Hyman Balsam, Mr. Lewis Bernstein, Mrs. Emma Meakin, Mr. Lloyd Williams, Mr. John Allen, and Mr. Henry Sylvester Richmond (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Martis, 21^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.
 Viscount Gordon (*Earl of Aberdeen*).
 Lord Clinton.
 Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord Sandhurst.
 Lord Monkswell.
 Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Thursday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn are examined, viz. :—
 Mr. Thomas Gall, Mr. Herbert Freeman, Mr. Abraham Ososki, Mr. William Leggatt, Mr. William Henry Whitehead, Mr. Theodore Thompson, M.B., and Mr. William John Davis (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 23^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.
 Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.
 Lord Kenry (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord Sandhurst.
 Lord Monkswell.
 Lord Thring.
 Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
 Mr. Andrew Thomas Rook, Miss Rachel Oppenheim, Isaac Smolensky, Mr. Benjamin Burman, Mrs. Bridget Lennon, Mr. J. Stazenger Moss, Mr. John Roberts, Mr. James F. Quinn, and Mr. George Keir (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 30^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Rothschild.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Thursday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mrs. Mary Anne Mitchinson, Samuel Reuben, Jacob Abraham, Mr. James Henry Sweeney, Mr. John Newhouse, Mr. Robert Burnett, Mr. Davis Joseph, Mr. James William Denton, Mr. John William Akers, Mr. Abraham Cohen, and the Rev. Moses Abraham (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Veneris, 31^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	Lord Monkswell.
	Lord Thring.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. George Henry Laseelles Richards, Mr. Ammon Platt, Grace Gaddis, Kate Hughes, Mr. Joseph Gronnowsky, Mr. Isidor Frankenburg, Mr. William James Walker, and Mrs. Dwelly (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Thursday, the 11th of July, at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 11^o Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of Derby.	Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).
Viscount Gordon (<i>Earl of Aberdeen</i>).	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Lord Clinton.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Friday, the 31st of May last, are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz. :—
Mr. David Lubelski, Mr. Davis Isaac, Mr. Arthur Goodwyn, Mr. George P. Bate, M.D., Mr. James Woonton, and Hon. Edward Peirson Thesiger, C.B. (vide the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Monday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Lunæ, 15° Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Lord Clinton.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	Lord Basing.

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Thursday last are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *Robert Giffen* and Mr. *John Burnett* (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Martis, 16° Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clinton.	Lord Rothschild.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of yesterday are read.

The following Witnesses are called in, and, having been sworn, are examined, viz.:—
Mr. *George Shipton*, Mr. *Richard Edward Sprague Oram*, Mr. *Alexander Redgrave*, C.B.,
the Hon. *Edward Peirson Thesiger*, C.B. (*vide* the Evidence).

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned till Monday, the 5th of August, at Eleven o'clock.

Die Lunæ, 5° Augusti, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.	Lord Kenry (<i>Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl</i>).
Earl of Derby.	Lord Sandhurst.
Lord Clinton.	Lord Monkswell.
Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.	Lord Thring.
Lord Foxford (<i>Earl of Limerick</i>).	

LORD KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*), in the Chair.

Order of adjournment read.

The Proceedings of the Committee of Tuesday, the 16th of July last, are read.

It is resolved that a sum of 125*l.* be paid to Mr. *Richard Edward Sprague Oram* as remuneration for services rendered by him to the Select Committee in visiting the various districts in the United Kingdom where it has been alleged that the sweating system exists, and examining into the evidence proposed to be submitted to the Select Committee.

A Draft Report is laid before the Committee by the Chairman.

The same is considered, and the first paragraph thereof is agreed to.

It is then moved by the Lord Thring to insert the following paragraph :

“ Having regard to the late period of the Session, and the fact that they have so lately concluded taking evidence, the Committee feel that they must defer the further consideration of their Report until next Session, in order that they may have ample time to weigh the evidence and discuss their Report. They have therefore directed the Minutes of Evidence, together with an Appendix, to be laid before your Lordships ; and they beg to express their hope that they may be re-appointed next Session for the purpose of making a full Report on the evidence taken by them.”

The same is agreed to.

The further consideration of the Draft Report is postponed.

Ordered, That the Lord in the Chair do make the said Report to The House (*vide* Fourth Report).

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LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of DERBY.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord FOXFORD (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord THRING.

Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

DANIEL McLAUGHLIN, is called in; and having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

25537. *Chairman*] WHAT is your business or trade?
A tailor, a journeyman tailor.

25538. Where do you live?
268, Matheson-street, Southside, Glasgow.

25539. Have you worked as a tailor in Glasgow all your time?
I have been working in the tailoring trade in Glasgow all my life.

25540. Do you belong to any society there?
Yes, the Scottish National Operative Tailors' Society; I am the ex-president of it; they call it a trade protection and benefit society.

25541. I think a committee some time ago was appointed, or appointed themselves, in Glasgow to inquire into the condition of the tailoring trade there, did they not?
Yes.

25542. Were you a member of that committee?
I was a member of that committee.

25543. Who were the others?
Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Walker, and David Edington; there were four on the committee.

25544. All tailors?
All journeymen tailors.

25545. All practical men?
Yes.

25546. And you endeavoured to find out how far that which is generally called sweating existed in your trade?
Yes.

25547. Did you visit a great number of shops?
Yes; we visited about 50 sweaters' places within about a mile of Glasgow Cross.

25548. Will you tell me first of all how is the trade generally carried on in Glasgow; I suppose this sweating is in the ready-made trade?

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[*Continued.*]

There is some of it carried on in the ready made-clothing ; that is to say, there are two classes of it carried on in Glasgow ; there is what we would call the wholesale sweater ; that is a man who works for export trade, who takes out work to be done for a wholesale clothier, a wholesale and export dealer, a wholesale manufacturer ; he takes out the work from him and gets it done for him, that is what we call the ready made ; we call him the wholesale sweater. Then there is another whom we call the real sweater ; that is the man who takes first-class work, customer work, who takes it to be done in his own home ; that work is ordered in the town by the customer himself, and manufactured by different people from those the customer himself understands it is manufactured by. The sweater goes and gets the things made ; he takes the work out from the clothier, and he has a place of his own in his own house generally where it is done. Part of it is a dwelling-house, and part of it is a workshop. The dwelling-house consists of a room and kitchen in some instances, or perhaps two rooms, sometimes three ; in one case that I visited there were five rooms employed as workshops ; he was a Jew sweater in that case, taking out work.

25549. Before you go on, I understand from you that you say that there is sweating both in the wholesale and in the bespoke trade ?

Yes.

25550. And by sweating, what do you mean exactly ?

I mean by a sweater a man that takes work from an employer, or from a manufacturer, or from a clothier, and gets a certain price for it, and gets it made at a lower price than that price that he gets himself. That is what I mean by sweating.

25551. Does it ever go through more than one man's hands in Glasgow ?

Yes, sometimes through two or three.

25552. You mean to say that two or three profits have to be made between the working man who makes the clothes and the man who buys them ?

Yes.

25553. Now tell us as to these places that you visited, what kind of places they were ?

The worst place that I visited in Glasgow, I may say, does not belong to what you would call a sweater, but a contractor, and he gives out sweating. He employs about 100 men. His men had to work in rooms which are what we call bedrooms ; nothing more or less. There were five of these rooms that I visited, and there were 20 men in each of them ; and there was a charcoal fire for heating the irons in each of the rooms ; and they were making public contracts, policeman's clothing, and commissionaire's tunics, and postman's clothing, and some Government volunteer work for London when I visited them ; and they were very busy at that time, because, in what we call the general slack season, that is after the summer season is over, these contracts are fixed to be done.

25554. When is your slack season ?

Between the months of January and April, you may say, and the months of September and November.

25555. And this man you say was carrying out these various contracts under these circumstances ?

Under these circumstances, with a charcoal fire for heating their irons, and they had to keep the gas alight all day to see to do their work ; they had not sufficient light to do the work otherwise ; and when you opened the door of the place you could not stand there unless you had marvellous strong lungs ; I could not stand it.

25556. You mean that the atmosphere was so bad that you could not stand it ?

I could not stand it without the door being opened.

25557. Was this place subject to factory inspection ?

Yes, but it seemed that the factory inspector had never visited it ; neither the sanitary nor factory inspector, for 14 years before our visit.

25558. I forgot

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[Continued.]

25558. I forgot to ask you when you visited these places?
The winter before last, in January 1888.

25559. Is all the evidence that you are going to give the Committee based upon what you saw in January 1888?

No; there is some of the evidence that is based on the present time; but this evidence is based on that time.

25560. Earl of *Limerick*.] Was that the time the committee you have spoken of was formed?

At the time that we visited the place; previous to this public contract being re-arranged for last year; and we got the contract altered owing to our agitation, and got the place altered; we got the place cleaned out and everything else.

25561. *Chairman*.] You say that this place was subject to factory inspection; how do you know that?

I know it from the evidence of a machinist, a girl that had been there for 14 years, and she told me herself that during all that time it had never been cleaned; that she had complained to the factory inspector often, and to the sanitary inspector, but the place had never been cleaned.

25562. Did I understand you that all this work is carried on in bed-rooms?

Carried on in five rooms like bed-rooms; they might have been bed-rooms at one time.

25563. Were there women working there?

There were women working there. It was an old building.

25564. And that place has been improved since then?

Yes.

25565. Is there much work carried on under conditions like that in Glasgow?

There are various other places, but since our investigation started, I must say that some of them have been greatly improved, especially amongst the Jewish sweaters. There was one place, a very bad place that I visited, where the sweater employed between 40 and 50 women; he was a large Jew wholesale sweater, that is a ready-made sweater; he worked for Arbroath, London, and Montrose, and he gave me a list of the prices that he got for the work he had done; and he had between 40 and 50 women employed in an old boiler shed, or something like it, a disused part of an engineer's shop; you had to get up to it by three wooden ladders; you had to go through a joiner's shop to get to it; and there was no sanitary accommodation whatever for these women anywhere.

25566. You had better give us what evidence you wish about the prices perhaps afterwards, and go on now with what you have to say about the sanitary condition of these places. Is most of the work carried on in shops as large as that?

Most of the sweaters in Glasgow carry on their work in their dwelling house, that is to say, they make part of the dwelling house the workshop.

25567. In those kind of cases, how many probably would be working?

It depends, of course, upon the amount of work, but I know of various instances where a common bed-room has accommodated seven or eight men, and another room opposite has been occupied by machinists.

25568. Seven or eight men working in one room?

A common bed-room.

25569. What would be the size of that room?

About 12 feet by 9 say.

25570. Was anybody sleeping in it?

In some instances the bed-room was a bed-room, that is to say, there was a bed in it; what you call in Glasgow a set-in bed, a bed built into the wall, a concealed bed.

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[Continued.]

25571. The room being used for sleeping as well as working?
Used for sleeping as well as working, and for heating irons as well.

25572. The sweater in these cases, I presume, works himself?
In some cases he does; in some he does not; in most of the cases he does; these small sweaters mostly do work themselves.

25573. And the larger ones do not?
The larger ones do not; the wholesale sweater never works.

25574. They superintend the work?
They superintend it.

25575. You said that you have visited, how many sweaters' houses?
Fifty, within a radius of a mile of Glasgow Cross.

25576. Were they all in a bad sanitary condition?
No, there were some very well provided as far as sanitary accommodation was concerned, but some were not. Those that were carried on on the factory system were properly provided; that is to say, the places of the wholesale sweaters were generally carried on on the factory system, and under the eye of the factory inspector, so that they had the general sanitary arrangements connected with them; but in the case of the small sweater who made a part of his dwelling-house his workshop, there was, in his place, no sanitary accommodation, you may say, in a certain sense; that is to say, there was no sanitary accommodation for the females that were working there; the females and the men all worked together in one room.

25577. And these small sweaters would not be subject to the factory inspection?

The factory inspector could not get entrance into the houses because they were private dwellings.

25578. And was the atmosphere very bad in them?
Yes; there was one of them fined twice by the sanitary authorities, and the proprietor of the building himself was the prosecutor, I believe, wishing to get him turned out, if possible.

25579. Can you tell the Committee as to the prices that the sweaters get from the manufacturers or tailors who employ them?

Yes. There are various prices, but I can give you their general rule for prices.

25580. I want to get from you the prices that the sweaters get, and the prices that they pay, if you can give that to the Committee?

One sweater employed about 10 women, he said to us, in his private dwelling-house; and the prices he got were 11 *d.* for making a boy's suit, and for a youth's suit 2 *s.*

25581. What would he have to do for that?
To make it complete and provide his own thread.

25582. He would get the material ready cut for him?
Ready cut. Then there was another who for a boy's tweed jacket got 11 *d.* (this man was a wholesale sweater), and for a bound coat, 1 *s.* 4 *d.*; for a shooting coat, 2 *s.* 3 *d.*, for a bound shooting coat, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, and for a boy's bound jacket, 1 *s.* 3 *d.* There was another place where the sweater got for a highland doublet, and kilt, velvet bound and traced, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; then for policemen's coats the workmen got 3 *s.* 3 *d.* each.

25583. Cannot you give us the prices the workmen got in these former cases?

This last is a public contract, and I could not find out the price that the contractor gets.

25584. I ask you, cannot you give us the price that the workmen get from the sweater in these cases where you have told us what the sweater got from the manufacturer?

No,

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[Continued.]

No, except in some instances, I cannot, and I can tell you the reason of that. The work is generally done on the division of labour system, and one part is done by one party, and another is done by another party; I can tell you how it is produced and how much it costs them to produce it, but I cannot tell you as a rule what one party gets; because there are two or three parties connected with the producing of one article, for instance a pair of trousers.

25585. Take one of those articles as to which you have mentioned that the sweater got so much for it; can you tell us what the different people employed in making it got for the work they did upon it?

Yes, in some instances. In most of the instances the one party gets $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ for doing all the machine work on a pair of trousers. Then they are finished after that, that is to say, made ready to go on the man for another $2d.$; that is $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ to produce it.

25586. Now, as to other things besides trousers, boys' suits and youths' suits, and so on, can you tell us what the workers would get on them?

They are all done on the same principle; I do not know exactly as between a boy's suit and a youth's. I know that with regard to these boys' suits that I am speaking of, that is kilt suits or doublets, a highland doublet and kilt, a woman gets $2s.$ for making that complete, and it takes her about 16 or 18 hours to make it. These articles are sold at about $35s.$ and $40s.$

25587. Have you any idea what the value of the material is?

Yes, the material and stuff, that is the material and trimmings, would cost, I dare say, about $15s.$ at the utmost.

25588. Would that apply to the finished article sold for $35s.$ or to the one sold for $40s.$?

To the $35s.$ or the $40s.$

25589. You mean that in both cases the material would be worth about $15s.$?

The only difference would be that they might take the measure for the one and they might not take the measure for the other; they might sell one ready made, ready for you to put on your back and walk away in, and in the other instance they might take your measure and you would have to wait till the things were made.

25590. Now will you give the Committee some more information, if you can, about the prices that the workers get?

There was another place that we visited, where they were making men's jackets for from $1s. 9d.$ to $2s. 3d.$, that is to say, they were bound at $2s. 3d.$, and the binding had to be sewn on with the hand. Shooting coats at $2s. 3d.$, and $2s. 6d.$, bound with the hand; $3d.$ difference for the binding in that case. Overcoats, $2s. 6d.$, and $3s. 3d.$; the one is bound, and the other is not bound; the one is a tweed overcoat you may say: and trousers from $11s.$ to $14s.$ a dozen.

25591. Do you know what the selling price of those overcoats would be?

This place that I have described is a place where they work for the export trade; so I could not say what the selling price would be in that case. Then boys' suits, from the smallest up to 32 size (that is 32-inches round the chest), $2s. 9d.$ to $3s. 6d.$ for the suit. There was one of these places that we visited where we had to actually wade through filth to get into the workshop, and the sweater employed six men in that place. This place was described by the "Lancet" Commissioner, and, as I say, we had to wade through filth. This man is a sweater pure and simple for customer work, customer ordered trade.

25592. You mean that he does work for the tailors, the bespoke trade?

I mean the bespoke trade where a man goes into a respectable tailor's shop and orders a suit of clothes, and then this sweater goes in and takes it out, and makes it here at this place I have been speaking of for a cheaper rate. The place that he was making these things in has been described by the "Lancet" Commissioner, and of course I could not describe it any better.

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[Continued.]

25593. The description of the "Lancet" Commissioner is not in evidence before the Committee, so that if you want to describe it you must do it your self?

We had to walk through filth to get into the workshop; it was in a garret; and there were two turkeys accommodated between the workshop and the dwelling part of the house, and you had to pass through a little place nearly on your hands and knees to get into the workshop, and after you got into the workshop you could only stand straight up in the centre of the floor; in the middle it was only about six feet high.

25594. How high would the walls be?

About two feet, or a foot and a-half at the sides; I could not say which. They run just from the floor right up in that way (*describing it*).

25595. What would be the length and breadth of it, do you know?

About 14 feet, I dare say, long, and about 9 feet broad.

25596. And in that place you say there were seven men working?

Seven men and a woman, a machinist.

25597. What would the men be doing?

They were making first-class customer work.

25598. Sewing?

Sewing; they were getting work out of a first-class shop; they told me the name.

25599. And, I suppose, that place was very hot, was it?

Yes, there was a stove at one end of it, heating irons.

25600. In most of the cases where you have mentioned the prices paid for the work, was the work done by men or women?

In most of the cases in which I have mentioned the prices, the work was done by women; but in this case the work was done by men. But the customer work is different from the women's work; it is all done by hand.

25601. Not sewn by the machine at all?

Some part of it is done by the machine.

25602. You had better explain, because you said before, "It is all done by hand," and now you say some of it is done by machine; will you just explain that?

What I mean is, that this is done in all first-class shops; the wadding is stitched in by the machine into the sides of the coats, and the sleeves generally seamed, and the sleeve linings are also done by the machine generally in the best of the places.

25603. And all the rest done by hand?

All the rest done by hand. Now taking coats in a first-class shop; for instance, in the shop from which this man was getting the work out, a man working inside will get between 16 s. and 18 s. for making.

25604. Working in the shop?

Working in the shop, whereas the man that was working for the sweater got 6 s. 6 d. for making the same coat?

25605. Now is that common?

That is common.

25606. What would be the length of hours they work?

For a man to make a coat it would take him two days; of course there are some men that can make a coat quicker than others, I must admit that, but for a man working in a regular shop 10 hours a day, it would take him two days at the least, or two days and a-half working at his utmost.

25607. And how much would he get for that?

In a first-class shop he would get about 16 s. or 18 s. for the two and a-half days' work.

25608. Are

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D. McLAUGHLIN.

[*Continued.*]

25608. Are they paid by the time or by the piece ?
He is paid by the piece.

25609. How much does he get paid for doing the coat ?

Between 16 s. and 18 s. Then the sweater gets that garment out, and he gets 14 s. for it, we will say; that is, 2 s. off the workman's price; and he gets a man to make it for 6 s. 9 d.

25610. The whole coat ?
The whole coat.

25611. And it takes the man two days or two days and a-half to do it ?
Yes.

25612. And does the man do all the work upon it himself ?
With the exception of the parts that I have told you of.

25613. What are the hours of work in the shops of what you call the wholesale sweaters ?

Wholesale sweaters are generally under the Factory Act. Those that are confined to the dwelling-houses work all hours, that is to say, they work early and late, as late as 11 and 12 o'clock at night.

25614. Are the provisions of the Factory Act carried out in these wholesale sweaters' places, or are they evaded ?

As a rule they are carried out in the wholesale sweaters' places, but in the house of the small sweater, that is, the man who occupies part of a dwelling-house as his workshop, they are not carried out.

25615. And the hours are very long there ?

They work whenever they like, that is to say, they work all hours they wish.

25616. But I want to know whether they do work long or short hours ?

If they have plenty of work they will go in at six o'clock in the morning and work till eleven o'clock at night.

25617. Does the work generally come to them in rushes, which requires them to work very late, or do they get it pretty regularly ?

No, they get it very irregular.

25618. You mean they might be out of work altogether, for some days, and then have to work 16 or 17 hours a day ?

Yes, the latter end of the week.

25619. Have you worked in any of these places yourself ?

No.

25620. And women would be working in them too ?

Yes, women would be working in them as rule.

25621. The same hours ?

The same hours.

25622. Are there any girls or children employed ?

Yes, in some of these places. In one place we visited the sweater makes a practice of what we call taking on learners, that is to say, employs young girls for a certain time to learn the machine part of the work, and they get no wages for say six weeks or so or two months; and after that time if competent they get 2 s. to 3 s. per week, and after the busy season is over if they have not room for them, generally as a rule they discharge them all and take on a new batch.

25623. What becomes of these girls; what do they do ?

I do not know.

25624. Do they get employment ?

I do not know what becomes of them; it is a fact that they are discharged, at any rate, and they are employed in that way. There are two or three places

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[*Continued.*]

that we visited ; there are two, at any rate, very particular cases, where that system is carried out.

25625. How many learners do they employ in those cases ?

They employ as a rule, I suppose, about half-a-dozen learners.

25626. With regard to these places that are carried on like factories, as you described them, do any of the people working in them take work home ?

Yes, as a rule the women that were, or are now, employed by one of these contractors carry their work home and finish it at home ; that is to say when their day's labour was done and the hour come when they were turned out under the Factory Act, they carried their work home and brought it finished in the morning.

25627. Do you know whether many of these small sweaters get all their work done by members of the same family ?

No, they generally employ others.

25628. I think you talked about Jew sweaters ; are there many Jews in the trade in Glasgow ?

Yes ; but they are all in the wholesale sweating trade, that is to say working for manufacturers, wholesale and export dealers.

25629. But there are a good many, are there ?

Yes.

25630. In that particular branch of the trade, are there more foreigners than natives ?

In the wholesale sweating there are more foreigners than natives ; but in the case of the small sweaters it is more natives than foreigners.

25631. Is the number of Jews increasing or decreasing ?

I fancy that they are increasing.

25632. How long is it since they have been using machinery much in your trade ?

You may say since the invention of the sewing machine in 1866.

25633. Does it make much difference to the trade ?

Yes, it has made all the difference in the world.

25634. In what way ?

Because it allowed these people to introduce themselves into the trade who actually knew nothing at all about the work ; and there are parties at the present time, men that have served their time, working with a machine, that is to say working where a machine is employed, who if they go into a place where handwork is done, cannot do it.

25635. Do you mean that any of these sub-contractors, sweaters as you call them, are not practical men, that they know nothing of the trade themselves ?

Yes.

25636. And that the use of the machine enables men and women to work at the trade who have no claim to be called practical tailors ?

Yes.

25637. Do you consider that a bad thing ?

I do not consider that a bad thing, but I think if it were arranged better, that is to say if it were regulated and controlled, it would be a good thing.

25638. How would you regulate it or control it ?

What I would suggest would be that all these places of these wholesale sweaters, should be gathered under one roof, that is to say that they should be under the eye of the factory inspector, Her Majesty's Factory Inspector, and the sanitary inspector as well, and controlled in this way, that in all public contracts they be limited to a minimum rate of wage which should be paid to their workers, because it is mostly in public contracts that they grind down the worker.

25639. I understand

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25639. I understand now you are speaking of what you suggest should be done for the condition of the trade generally ; but I thought you said just before that you thought the use of the machine should be regulated and controlled in some way ?

Not the use of the machine, but only the action of the sweater ; you cannot put down the machine, because the machine will go on improving.

25640. That is what I wanted to get at from you ; you do not propose to put down the machine ?

You cannot put down the machine, but I want to regulate the machine work and the machine workers. I want to get at the regulation of that.

25641. Will you go on and tell us how you wish that to be done ?

That is the only suggestion that I could make. As you have done with the maintenance of public markets, for instance, the fish markets, the clothes markets for second-hand clothing, and the like of that, I would suggest that if these parties who are engaged in this wholesale trade were all gathered under one roof, and put under the eye of the municipal authority, then the municipal authority could regulate it, and they could see to the sanitary condition as well ; because, unless that is done, I do not see how you will be able to cope with the question. In all public contracts they would know then the amount of the contract and the rate of wage that the employer was paying to the worker ; and we would like to limit the rate of wage to a minimum rate, that is to say, fix the lowest rate to the worker that he would get from any contracts that came out of the public rates.

25642. How should that minimum rate be fixed, do you think ?

I think it should be fixed by the standard wage of the general workmen in the town.

25643. I mean, who should fix it ?

The municipal authority.

25644. Do you mean the municipal authority by themselves or in consultation with the workmen ?

I mean this, that the municipal authority's hands should be tied this much by the Imperial Government ; that they cannot go below the lowest rate of wage in the town where the contract is made.

25645. Earl of *Derby*.] You are speaking only of Government work ?
Only Government work, public contracts.

25646. *Chairman*.] You mean not only Government work, but contracts of the municipal authorities ?

Yes, of the municipal authorities.

25647. And you think that the Imperial Government should step in and say that the municipal authorities were not to get their work done at less than a certain rate of wages ?

A certain rate of wages ; according to the rate of wages in each town where the contract is made.

25648. And that that ought to be ascertained by reference to the general rate of wage in the town ?

The general rate of wage in the town.

25649. Is there any log or statement of prices in Glasgow ?

Yes.

25650. How was that settled ?

Between the masters and the workmen ; signed agreements.

25651. Then do these sweaters that you have been speaking of pay less than that ?

Yes.

25652. A great deal less ?

A great deal less.

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[*Continued.*]

25653. Do you know whether most of the men working for them are union-men or not?

There are no union men working for the sweaters; if they do work for the sweaters they are put out of the union.

25654. That is to say, I suppose, if they work for less than the regulated price?

Yes, if they work for less than the regulated price.

25655. How long has this price list of Glasgow stood at the present rate? Since 1866.

25656. Has there been no change made since then?

No change made since then, with the exception of a few little alterations.

25657. Would you be able to give that log to the Committee; have you got it with you?

No, I have not got it; it is a comprehensive document; I could not give it to you, but I could give you a general idea of it.

25658. What I mean is, could you give the Committee the prices according to your log, and the prices paid by the sweaters for the same work?

Yes. The prices paid by our log are, for a pair of trousers from 5 s. 6 d. to 7 s.; the prices paid by the sweaters generally are 1 s. 10 d. to 2 s.

25659. For the same article?

For the same article; sometimes a little more. For a coat which they would get we will say 16 s., between 16 s. and 18 s. for making, by the log, the sweater only pays 6 s. and 6 s. 6 d. for making; the same coat.

25660. Can we take these two articles, coats and trousers, as affording us a fair idea of the difference of price between the log and the sweaters' prices for all kinds of articles?

All kinds of articles in the same ratio.

25661. Do you know the number of operatives engaged in the tailoring trade in Glasgow?

There are 1,400 belonging to the union. I think outside of that there will be about another 2,000. I think in Glasgow altogether the people earning a living by the tailoring trade would be between 5,000 and 6,000.

25662. Men and women?

Men and women.

25663. Do you know whether fines or deductions of any kind are made by the employers and taken out of the operatives' wages?

Yes.

25664. In what way are these deductions made, for what?

For being late in the morning.

25665. Fines?

Fines for being late in the morning, such things as that.

25666. Are any other deductions made from them?

For carelessness, or bad work, deductions are made.

25667. The cheapest kind of labour, this badly paid labour you have spoken of, I suppose is mainly employed on the cheapest class of goods, is it not?

Yes, mostly on the ready-made export goods.

25668. Has that trade always existed in Glasgow?

No, not always, but as long as I remember.

25669. Was it always largely in the hands of Jews?

I could not say that; the Jews came into it mostly within this last 10 or 15 years; previous to that it was mostly carried on by natives.

25670. That

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[Continued.]

25670. That is Jew employers or Jew workmen do you mean?
I mean Jew sweaters.

25671. But are there many Jews working, men and women?

In regard to any places that ever I visited where there was a Jew sweater, it was mostly Jewesses and Jews that were employed in the place, with few exceptions.

25672. Do you think that this trade in ready-made clothing could be carried on without these middlemen or sweaters?

Yes, on the factory system only.

25673. Do you think it could be carried on as cheaply, that the goods could be produced as cheaply?

As cheaply, and under better conditions.

25674. Do you know whether there is much foreign competition in these cheap goods which are exported?

No; my enquiry does not extend to that.

25675. How do you account for your not numbering more in your Union; I think you said there were 1,400 in Glasgow?

Yes, in the Glasgow branch alone.

25676. How do you account for there not having been more?

The only thing I can say about there not being more is that it is more now than ever it was before; it is getting gradually stronger.

25677. But still there are a good many more out than there are in the Union?

A greater number out than are in.

25678. How do you account for that?

I account for it in this way, that they are mostly employed in these sweaters' places and as outdoor workers, and these parties do not work long for one master; they only work perhaps a week or two, and they then go away from one to another master; because it is a rule amongst the sweaters that they give a man money every night, because these parties are generally in such circumstances that they cannot live without money, and they get a certain amount of money every night, a shilling to keep them alive till the next day, and some of them at the end of the week are actually in debt, instead of having anything to get for their work.

25679. Earl of Derby.] They have spent all their wages before the regular pay day comes?

They get a shilling each night, and on Saturday they have nothing to get.

25680. Chairman.] If they are in debt are they charged anything?

They have to pay it as a rule if they come back again, but as a rule they do not come back, but go away to some other sweater.

25681. I suppose the labour employed on the cheap goods is not so skilled as the labour employed on the best bespoke work?

No.

25682. Have prices improved lately in Glasgow?

Prices in Glasgow are what they have been this last 20 years nearly.

25683. About the same now?

About the same now as they have been this last 20 years.

25684. I mean the sweaters' prices?

The sweaters' prices are decreasing.

25685. Getting worse?

Worse and worse. There is one witness here who will prove to your Lordships that he got for finished trousers, one halfpenny for two and a half hours' work.

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[Continued.]

25686. Has any attempt been made at Glasgow in the direction of co-operative working, or factories on the co-operative principle?

There are co-operative stores in Glasgow, but not in connection with our trade. There is a general co-operative store that carries on all kinds of business under George Holyoake's system; there is a branch of that there; that is all that I know of.

25687. One suggestion which I think you made as a remedy was that as far as Government contracts or municipal contracts were concerned, the operatives employed should be paid the regular trade log prices, or at least certain minimum price?

That in all public contracts the lowest rate to be paid should be fixed.

25688. The lowest rate being fixed according to the general state of prices in the trade?

Of that town, according to what town it was; because in different towns there are different prices.

25689. You said also that these large wholesale sweaters should be gathered together under one roof?

Under one roof.

25690. I do not clearly understand the object of that?

My object in doing that is to carry out the same principle as has been carried out in public markets, such as slaughter-houses, fish markets, and such like, and put under the municipal authority, the arrangement of these workshops; for instance, the municipal authority to build a large public building, and let it out to each of these wholesale sweaters, or wholesale clothing manufacturers, and for the clothing manufacturers to employ the people direct without any middle man. The wholesale clothing manufacturer could take a flat or half a flat, or as much as he wants of this public building, and put an overseer over the men, and it would be under the public eye that he would manufacture his goods. For instance, in the case of Stewart and Macdonald, Stewart and Macdonald have done it already in Glasgow to a certain extent; of course they had to do it on their own responsibility; so have Arthur and Company carried out that principle; they have taken a large building and have put all their workers into that building, and put an overseer over them; instead of giving out the work as they once did to sweaters, now they have them all under one roof, and an overseer over them, and that overseer has the whole charge of that building and all that is in it; and he is not a sweater; each worker is remunerated according to the labour produced.

25691. But as far as inspection is concerned, these large sweaters' places, the places of these wholesale sweaters as you call them, are factories within the meaning of the Act, are they not?

They are factories.

25692. So that they are under the public eye to that extent?

Yes; they are under the Factory Act.

25693. But you think the municipal authorities ought to provide the buildings and let them out?

Yes; but I think the only way of getting at it properly is to prevent a sweater taking a house of five or six rooms and a kitchen, and using five rooms for work rooms and only the kitchen for his living room, and only part of that sometimes. Now, his house is a private dwelling, and the factory inspector cannot force an entrance into it. We want all these places occupied as work rooms, whether part of a dwelling-house or not, to be under the eye of the factory inspector.

25694. But could not that be done by compulsory registration of all places where work is carried on, and extending the provisions of the Factory Act to those places?

Yes.

25695. You

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[Continued.]

25695. You think that ought to be done?

I think that ought to be done to prevent dwelling-houses being used as they are now, as a rule, in Glasgow, because in the case of most of the sweaters, I may say three-fourths of the sweaters, that we visited, they were parts of the dwelling-houses that were occupied as workshops. They lived in the same place as the work was carried on in.

25696. Earl of *Derby*.] Are you objecting to that on sanitary grounds?
On sanitary grounds.

25697. And on sanitary grounds only?
On sanitary grounds only.

25698. *Chairman*.] Fining, I believe, making deductions from wages, is illegal, is it not?

Yes; but it is done, though it is illegal.

25699. Are there any alterations or amendments in the Factory Act that you could suggest, or in the Truck Act?

I think it would be advisable to prevent parties doing as these parties do that work for the sweaters; of course they do not actually get goods, but they get money every night; and they actually never get any wages; they are in debt from year's end to year's end; and also to make the sanitary provisions of Factory Act applicable to both sexes alike.

25700. You mean that every night they are advanced so much on account?

Every night they are advanced so much money, more than they have worked for generally.

25701. Earl of *Derby*.] But how can you prohibit a man paying wages before they become due.

What we would suggest as a remedy for that is——

25702. *Chairman*.] First of all, why do you think that is a bad thing?

I think it is a bad thing because the men never have any independence in themselves; it takes away all independence from them, and makes them depend too much on the sweater.

25703. They are always in the power of the sweater, you mean?

They are always in the power of the sweater.

25704. How would you propose to remedy that?

It would be a very difficult thing to remedy; I know that. I could not propose anything to remedy it; I only bring the difficulty under your Lordships' notice so that you may understand how the thing is situated.

25705. Earl of *Derby*.] You could hardly forbid an employer to make a loan to a man who worked for him, could you?

No.

25706. *Chairman*.] Do you think that the inspection under the Factory Act is sufficient?

I think there should be compulsory registration; that is to say, that all employers that give out work to be done outside their premises ought to be compelled to keep a register of their out-workers, and that register ought to be open to Her Majesty's inspector, and local sanitary inspectors.

25707. Do you think that there are enough inspectors now?

No. If that which I have suggested was carried out there are not enough to compete with the work, because these places are so numerous in every trade, not only in our trade, but especially the tailoring trade.

25708. I should gather, from what you have said about the unsanitary condition of these places, that you would think that the sanitary authorities have not done their duty in the matter; am I right?

Yes.

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[Continued.]

25709. Do you think it would be a good thing if the factory inspector had some powers in regard to sanitation also?

Yes.

25710. In your inquiries into the sweating system in your own trade, has it come under your knowledge that there is sweating in other trades in Glasgow?

Yes; but I did not particularly inquire into it in other trades.

25711. But you think the same evils exist in other trades?

I could not say in other trades generally, except, perhaps, where females are employed to the same extent, or something like the same extent, as in the tailoring trade.

25712. What trades would those be?

The mantle-making, dressmaking, and shirtmaking are trades of that sort.

25713. Have you read the evidence given before this Committee about the tailoring trade in the East End of London?

No.

25714. Earl of *Derby*.] Did I understand you to say that in regard to all contracts made with public bodies municipal authorities are to fix the minimum rate of wage?

Yes.

25715. You are referring, I suppose, mainly to the case of contracts where the Imperial Government is concerned?

Imperial or local rates.

25716. But take first the case of the Imperial Government; in that case the additional sum to be paid would come out of the Treasury, not out of any local fund?

But I would like for you to comprehend this much; that it is both imperial and local rates; that is to say, in a local contract for the municipal clothing, for example, the police clothing or the like of that, in Glasgow or Dublin, or any large town——

25717. But for the moment we are speaking of the Imperial Government; in that case the higher wages would come out of the Treasury and increase the cost to the general public; is not that so?

No; because we have proved by our inquiries that the contractor was getting more money for his work, and that he could have paid double the wage, or more than double the wage, to the workman that he was actually paying, and we want to prevent that. I say that the contractor ought to be confined to paying his workmen at least a certain minimum rate of wages, because I have found on my inquiries, and so has the committee which was inquiring along with me, that the contractor who was contracting for the Glasgow police clothing was actually pocketing half, and more than half, the difference between his contract price and the price he was paying his workmen; more than 50 per cent.

25718. Then you do not consider that there would be any increased expenditure caused to the State by such a regulation as you propose?

No.

25719. I suppose that we may take it that the majority of the workers have votes, have they not, in municipal elections?

Yes.

25720. Therefore they would all be interested in keeping up a pressure upon the municipal authorities to carry this minimum rate of wages as high as they could?

Yes.

25721. Lord

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[Continued.]

25721. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Would not there be this difficulty, that if the municipal authority raised their minimum wage too high they would drive the contract out of the town altogether?

Yes; what we want is this much, that wherever a contract is made, a public contract for public clothing, there should be a standard price; and it does not matter what town it is made in; if it is driven from one town to another it cannot be made under the standard price in that town.

25722. You would leave it to open competition, therefore, between the towns?

Yes, the wages not to be under the lowest price in that town.

25723. And no town would raise the minimum price to an exorbitant standard, because that would have the effect of driving it away to another town, which would fix its minimum rate somewhat lower?

Yes.

25724. And you think that would be better than the public authority which gave out the contracts fixing the minimum price?

Of course it comes to the same thing; what I want is to make the thing sure, the public authority in the meantime to fix the price; but then we want the Imperial Legislature to tie down the hands of the municipal authorities in every town not to go underneath the lowest rate of wage in that town.

25725. You think that is a better way of doing it than leaving the public authority themselves to fix the minimum rate which was to be paid to the workers under any contract issued by them; by which means you would get the same minimum price at every place in which the contract was taken, instead of its varying according to rules made by the different municipalities?

I cannot alter my opinion; I think it would be better to have the different municipalities tied down to the lowest minimum rate of wage in every town, then they could not drive it from one town to another; it could not be driven in that way.

25726. About these Jews who work in the sweaters' shops, are they as a rule foreign Jews, or are they mostly Jews who have been born in this country?

As far as I have come across them they are mostly foreigners; but most of the women I have seen are native Jews, that is to say, born in Britain.

25727. But the men, you think, are foreign?

Most of the Jewish sweaters are foreign.

25728. I mean the men who work for them?

I could not say about them, but most of the women, as a rule, are native-born.

25729. Lord *Thring*.] I agree that your suggestion is a very plausible one, that wherever public money, be it municipal money or imperial money, is employed, the contractor should agree to pay the standard rate of wages; but how would you enforce that; how would you prevent a contractor evading it, because he might say, "Yes, I agree to pay the standard rate of wages," and then he may get some man under him to do it for less than the standard rate of wages?

As a matter of fact, in that case which I am speaking of in Glasgow that has come to my knowledge, they were the largest contractors for public contracts that I know of in Glasgow, and as a rule, previous to any agitation being carried on against them, they gave out most of their work to sub-contractors, and they again employed others under them, as you have said. But in the last contract that was competed for, of Glasgow policemen's clothing, that was prevented, and they were compelled under that contract to get all their work made on their premises; and as a necessary consequence of that, they had to get their premises altered, cleaned, and rearranged; and not only did they go to the expense of that, but they went to another expense of giving their workpeople more money for their work, in some instances 6 *d.* or 1 *s.* more for each garment they made.

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[Continued]

25730. In fact, your answer is that practically it did work ?
Yes.

25731. Then would not your scheme throw out of work a considerable quantity of unskilled labour ?

I think you would only get the unskilled labour better paid, and keep them in a better condition, because if you draw a natural inference from what I have said about the case of that man that kept his place for 14 years without its ever being cleansed or anything else, he naturally threw a lot of labour out of the market by not having it cleansed ; and as a matter of fact there were 12 men employed in cleaning it when I visited it the last time. That was a lot of labour employed which would not have been employed but for that cleaning.

25732. Your answer is the same in effect ; that practically in Glasgow the consequences I have put to you do not ensue ; that the unskilled labour was not thrown out of employment ; you say that it was tried in Glasgow in that particular instance, and the unskilled labour was not thrown out of employment ?

No, it was not.

25733. *Chairman.*] You would wish that in every contract for which public money was expended provision should be made in the contract that the work should be carried on upon the premises of the contractor, and that he was not to pay less than a certain amount of wages ?

Yes, the minimum rate.

25734. *Lord Thring.*] Supposing he agreed to pay the standard rate of wages, would you insist that the work should be carried on on the premises of the contractor ?

Yes.

25735. That surely would prevent all domestic work ?

Yes.

25736. And that would throw out of work a number of persons who now carry on domestic work, would it not ?

No, it would only shift the work from the dwelling-house to the workshop.

25737. *Earl of Derby.*] I suppose your principal object in wishing to bring all the work under one roof is to ensure publicity, that everyone should know what is being paid ?

Yes.

25738. You think that public opinion can be brought to bear when men are brought into one place in a manner in which it cannot be brought to bear when they are scattered about in separate houses ?

Yes.

25739. And that, I presume, quite as much as the sanitary considerations, is what influences you in making that proposal ?

Yes. In one place we visited, a small room, there were five females working (it was a good-sized bedroom) and a boy, and they were sitting on a fire grate and a fender, doing work, making vests for 6 s. a dozen.

25740. Would you object to people working in their own houses when only members of their own family were concerned ?

The only way that I would do it is this, that all employers who give out work, and all sweaters who give out work, should be compelled to keep a list of the parties that they employ, with their names and addresses, and that that list should be open to the factory inspector, and the factory inspector should be able with that authority in his hand to go into these places and see what they were like ; and I think that would not interfere with anybody doing anything for themselves. If you do a job for yourself you are not getting it from another man to do ; but it is those that employ out-workers that I am speaking of ; every man that employs an out-worker ought to be compelled to keep a list, I think, of his workers' names and addresses, and that list should be left open to the factory inspector.

25741. Even

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[*Continued.*]

25741. Even though the out-worker may be working in his own home ?
If he is working in his own home or no matter where he is working.

25742. What you said about fixing the minimum rate of wages, I suppose applies only to public contracts ?

Public contracts only.

25743. You do not propose any interference with the rate of wages in merely private transactions ?

No, only in public contracts, where the money has come out of public taxation.

25744. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if this was done as regards public contracts, it would have any effect upon the general rate of wages ?

Well, I think it would have a beneficial effect in most of the cases, especially in the large Jewish establishments that I visited in Glasgow, because it was mostly on public contracts that they were working.

25745. You mentioned just now that in factories or workshops the women take the work home to finish ?

Yes, in some instances.

25746. That would be practically evading the Act ?

Yes, evading the Factory Act.

25747. Have you any suggestion as to how that could be prevented, or do you think it ought to be prevented ?

I think it ought to be prevented of course, but then it is a very difficult thing to suggest a remedy ; I do not know the remedy that one would suggest for a thing like that ; I could scarcely suggest a remedy for it.

25748. Is there anything else you wish to say ?

No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

FRANCIS GALLACHER, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows :

25749. *Chairman*] ARE you a tailor ?

Yes.

25750. What kind of work do you do ?

I am a practical man, and can make either coats, or trousers, or vests.

25751. Do you work for a large wholesale house or for one of these sweaters that have been spoken of ?

I have worked for a sweater.

25752. Are you working for a sweater now ?

Not at present.

25753. Have you worked for several sweaters ?

Yes, in my time I have worked for a few of them.

25754. Have you anything to say as to the kind of places you have worked in ?

As regards the prices they are very small.

25755. What would you get for a coat, for instance ?

A coat that a man who was not working for a sweater would get about 12 s. or 14 s. for, we would get about 6 s. for.

25756. And how long would it take you to complete the coat ?

Say a day and a-half, two days perhaps.

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25757. Have

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F. GALLACHER.

[*Continued.*]

25757. Have you done all kinds of work, coats, trousers, and vests ?
Yes, whatever we got to do.

25758. What could you earn ?

I could earn about 18 s. a week, between 17 s. and 18 s. a week, that is working hard.

25759. How many hours would that be ?

About 12 hours a day, between 12 and 13 hours, beginning about six and coming out at about seven.

25760. Could you earn about 18 s. a week all the year round ?

No, not on an average; this would be when we were busy.

25761. And what would your average be, do you suppose ?

The average would be about 12 s. a week, take the year round, between 11 s. and 12 s.

25762. How many worked with you in the same shop ?

About six or seven.

25763. Men ?

Yes.

25764. All men ?

There might be a couple of women.

25765. Were you doing this ready-made trade or bespoke goods ?

This customer trade and ready made, both combined.

25766. Have you heard the evidence that Mr. McLaughlin gave ?

No.

25767. What are you earning now ; you are not working for a sweater now, you say ?

Not at present.

25768. Are you working in a tailor's shop, or what ?

It is a dwelling-house I work in, but he is not a sweater.

25769. What do you call him if you do not call him a sweater ?

He is a man who has a small trade for himself.

25770. What are you earning with him ?

I can earn about a pound a week.

25771. Then you can earn a pound a week with him, and you could earn 18 s. a week when you were working for a sweater ?

Between 16 s. and 18 s. a week ; that was when we got lots of work and were busy.

25772. Then the difference between the two is about 3 s. or 4 s. a week ?

Yes.

25773. What hours are you working now ?

Just any hours ; of course I can suit myself at the present time ; I can go at any time I like ; I have no particular hour ; I go in about eight o'clock, and stop work about six.

25774. These sweaters that you worked for were they Jews or Gentiles, or what ?

They were Gentiles.

25775. Do you know whether wages are getting better or worse in the sweating trade ?

They are getting better in the regular line, but are not improving in the sweating line.

25776. Are they getting worse ?

* Yes.

25777. Have

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F. GALLACHER.

[Continued.]

25777. Have you ever made any police clothing, or military clothing?

Yes; I have made military and police clothing, and commissionaires' clothing in Glasgow.

25778. What did you get paid for the police clothing?

I got 3 s. 3 d. for making a police tunic, and 3 s. 4 d. for making a top coat, that is the big coat.

25779. How long would it take you to make a tunic?

You could make about three in a week if you were working very hard.

25780. And how many greatcoats?

The big ones just about the same, just about equal; you would get a penny more for the top-coat, 3 s. 4 d. for them, and 3 s. 3 d. for the tunics.

25781. What kind of military work have you done?

I have made tunics.

25782. Are you sure they were military; were they for volunteers?

Yes, volunteers; that is all the same.

25783. What did you get paid for them?

I have got the length of 4 s. a piece for the grey tunics.

25784. How long have you been working at Glasgow?

I have been working for between 12 or 14 years in Glasgow.

25785. Are you earning now as much as you did 12 or 14 years ago?

Not just so much; of course I was working at a good shop at that time.

25786. How did you come to work for sweaters at all?

Just because of depression of trade; I was compelled to go to them.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

JOHN MUNDEY, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

25787. *Chairman.*] ARE you a tailor by trade?

Yes.

25788. Are you working for one of these sweaters?

Yes, I am working for one of these sweaters in the meantime.

25789. Is he a large man, or a small man; I mean in regard to his business?

He has seven men working for him.

25790. What kind of work are you doing for him?

I generally make coats for him; he gives me the length of 6 s. for a bound jacket.

25791. What do you have to do on that jacket?

I have to make almost the whole of it.

25792. Is all of it hand-sewn throughout?

No, he machines the sleeves and the sides of the jacket.

25793. What are your regular hours of work?

I begin at six and stop at eight at night.

25794. Have you ever worked later?

Yes; Friday nights we generally work till about nine or ten to get finished up earlier on Saturday.

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J. MUNDEY.

[Continued.]

25795. You are paid by the piece?

Yes, piece-work.

25796. How many of these jackets then can you make?

I can make about three or three-and-a-half in a week.

25797. How long have you been working for him?

I have been working for him this couple of months, or three months.

25798. Where were you working before that?

I was working in a place in Regent-street.

25799. With a sweater?

No.

25800. What kind of work were you doing for him?

He paid a sort of a second-class price; he was paying the statement of the second-class, 5 *d.* an hour.

25801. Were you paid by time?

No; but it is according to the way that the job is counted, whether you could make the job in a day or not; in that way you are paid by the hour; your job starts at so much an hour.

25802. What kind of goods were they?

Coats; the jacket was 11 *s.*, and a coat he paid 13 *s.* for.

25803. You are supposed to make a certain quantity in a certain time?

The man has to please himself for that; he might take three days to make one garment, when another man would make it sooner.

25804. You say they are paid 13 *s.* for a coat?

Yes, 13 *s.* for a coat.

25805. Where does the 5 *d.* an hour come in?

The 5 *d.* an hour comes in by the starting of the job; it starts at 20 hours, say.

25806. I do not understand how you are paid exactly; you say you are paid 5 *d.* an hour?

Yes; they start it at 20 hours.

25807. (To *Daniel McLaughlin*.) Could you explain this matter to us?

Yes. In our log or statement every garment starts at a certain amount of hours; that is to say, you are allowed a certain amount of hours to make it in; if you make it in less it is all to your own benefit, and if you take longer it is all to your own loss. For instance, take the jacket that Munday was speaking to you about; they take the average workman and consider how long that workman would take to make that garment, and then they allow that man that time, 20 hours to make that garment in; if the man can make it in 10, or 12, or 14 hours, it is all to his benefit, and if he takes 30 hours it is all to his loss; he gets no more and he gets no less.

25808. He is paid so much for the garment, but the price of the garment is fixed at so many hours at so much an hour?

An average workman is taken, and the amount of work he has to do in certain time is put down; he gets that price; a smart workman has the benefit, and a slow workman has the loss.

25809. (To the *Witness*.) What could you earn at that time?

In the busy season about 30 *s.*

25810. And what do you suppose your average would be?

About 14 *s.* or 15 *s.*

25811. What can you earn now where you are working at present?

At the present time I have been earning about 12 *s.* or 13 *s.*; last week was the only good week I have had this year; that was 19 *s.* 6 *d.*

25812. And what hours did you work at the former place?

The

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J. MUNDEY.

[Continued.]

The last week I went on at six in the morning and stopped at seven ; 13 hours a day.

25813. With an hour for dinner?

No, I had my dinner with me.

25814. Do you know whether this place you are working at now has been visited by any factory inspector?

Yes, there was someone up four or five weeks ago inspecting the place.

25815. A factory inspector?

Yes, a factory inspector.

25816. Are there any women working there?

No, he has no women working there.

25817. Have you anything else you wish to say?

No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MRS. CATHERINE LETHAM (or NUGENT), is called in ; and,
having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

25818. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?

A tailoress of 25 years ; since I was 13 years of age.

25819. Working in Glasgow all the time?

Working in Glasgow all the time.

25820. And what branch of the trade do you do?

I can do both the trousers and vests and jackets.

25821. Hand-sewing?

No ; partly done by the machine.

25822. Ready-made goods or bespoke goods?

All customer work.

25823. That is the best class of work?

Yes.

25824. Are you working for one of these sub-contractors, or sweaters, as they have been called?

No, I am not working for one of them.

25825. Is it a large shop?

A very large shop.

25826. A factory?

Not a factory.

25827. Do you know how many hands are working in it?

Thirty-four working in one room, and 10 to 14 in another room.

25828. What can you earn at present?

If I work night and day from Wednesday till Saturday I make 8 s. 6 d. a week.

25829. Do you not work on Monday and Tuesday?

I am a piece-worker ; a piece-worker does not get started till Wednesday or Thursday.

25830. And what are your hours of work?

From eight in the morning till seven at night ; but we have to take work home with us to make the wages I have mentioned.

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Mrs. LETHAM (or NUGENT).

[Cont inued]

25831. You work in the factory or workshop from eight to seven, and take home work to finish?

Yes.

25832. What does this man you are working for do with the goods he makes?

He sells customer work.

25833. Do people come to his shop to order the goods?

Some of them come to order the goods, and he gets them out of other shops.

25834. Does he do all his work on his own premises?

He does, most all of it.

25835. Then you have worked, I suppose, for other people before?

Yes; I have worked for a man, and finished trousers a halfpenny a pair; 3½d., the highest-class trousers, and you had to work hard from Monday morning till Saturday at 12 o'clock to make 6s. or 7s.

25836. What hours were you working there?

I was working about 14 or 15 hours a day for him in my own house.

25837. Anybody helping you?

No one but myself.

25838. And is that the kind of work you generally do?

No; I always work outside; the customer work.

25839. When you cannot get that, I suppose you take what work you can, and do it at your own place?

Yes.

25840. Can you earn more now than you did?

No; I could make a good pay 10 years ago, when there were not so many pressers, but I cannot make it now, when we have others to press; because I got the full price for work then.

25841. What you mean is, that formerly you did the sewing and the pressing yourself?

Yes.

25842. And now you only do the sewing?

Just the sewing; I do not use an iron at all.

25843. And where is the pressing done?

The pressing is done on the premises.

25844. Is there anything more you would like to say?

That is all the grievance just now.

25845. If there is anything I have not asked you about, that you would like to tell the Committee, you can do so?

I worked for a man in——— street, and made two vests and two pair of trousers, and made the sleeves of three coats for another journeyman tailor working there, and all he gave me was 7s. 6d.

25846. Do I understand that you did this work for the journeyman tailor?

Yes.

25847. That is to say, the journeyman tailor that put out that work to you?

Yes.

25848. This journeyman was working for a master?

Yes; he was taking the work out, and was getting 4s., and gave me only 1s. 6d.

25849. Do you know if it is a common thing for journeymen tailors to give out the work for women to sew?

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Mrs. LETHAM (or NUGENT).

[Continued.]

Shops sometimes give out work. This is a journeyman tailor who works in his own house, and he got 4 s. a pair for trousers and paid me 1 s. 6 d. I had to press them too.

25850. You mean that if you had taken them direct you would have got the 4 s., but you could not get them direct?

No, I could not.

25851. Is there anything more you would like to say?

No.

25852. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You said, I think, that you took work home after working the regular hours in these large workshops; that you worked longer hours at home?

Yes; when I was working for Mr. ——— I had to take my job home at night to earn the pay.

25853. Is that usual?

It is a customary thing.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

THOMAS CAREY, is called in; and having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

25854. *Chairman*.] ARE you a tailor by trade?

Yes; a self-taught man.

25855. Are you working for a wholesale clothier?

Several wholesale clothing houses; I am a "sweater" in one sense of the word; I am a master.

25856. Do you work in your own house?

Yes; in my own house.

25857. How many hands do you employ?

Four; myself and my wife make six.

25858. Four men?

No, no men; I am the only man in the place.

25859. What kind of work do you do?

I do a middle class of work, a wholesale trade, and I do some bespoke; some order trade for several houses in the city of Glasgow.

25860. What do you mean by a middle-class trade?

Not the worst class of goods, not the print stuff; nor yet the best class, the tweed or broadcloth.

25861. What are they used for?

For an ordinary working man that wants an ordinary suit of clothes; to go in and buy it ready made, and not for men in a higher sphere of life or a lower one; not a rich man or a poor man, but a middle-class man.

25862. Whom do you work for?

I work for the leading wholesale firms in the city of Glasgow.

25863. How do they pay you?

They pay me what I consider a very fair price, provided that I could get plenty of work the whole year round, but I cannot get plenty of work the whole year round; I can only get six months, and then the six busy months you have to work late and early, 16, 17, or 18 hours to live. Having to pay my rent and taxes for the slack time, I cannot pay money to all the workers when I do not earn it. I have to work rather long hours myself; I do not keep them working because I have the factory rules in the place. I only keep them working from 9 till 8.

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25864. How are the prices settled between you and the wholesale houses?

The prices between me and the wholesale houses are very fair in a sense, if I can get plenty of work, but I cannot.

25865. How do you settle them?

They pay me so much a garment for the garments I take; they tell me before I take the garment, "This garment is to be so much," or "This dozen is to be so much; will you take them"? Then I say if I do not want them, "I will not because they will not pay me." In the jacket line I take nothing less than from 18 s. to 24 s. a dozen, that is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. a-piece.

25866. In the other kinds of goods what do you get?

A common pair of moleskin trousers I must get 1 s. 4 d. for, or I do not take them.

25867. What for the vests?

Twelve shillings to 14 s. per dozen.

25868. That is a bargain every time you get the order, is it?

I have to go and ask if there is anything for me, and if the work is there, they say take it or leave it at so much. If they have a foreign order for the Cape of Good Hope or any other place, if they do not want it for a week or a fortnight, I am met with, "Well, Carey, I will take a 1 d. or 2 d. off these jobs," and if I do not take them at the reduced price they throw them under the counter. If I ask my workers, "Will you do your work for less?" they say no; but I am compelled to go back and take them at the reduced price. I blame the foreigners for it all.

25869. You have to make a bargain every time?

Not every time.

25870. I mean there is no regular fixed rate that goes on for a length of time?

There is no scale of prices that goes on for a length of time.

25871. What part of the work do you do yourself?

I do a part of it all through. In the first place I put it up, and I superintend the work all over; I press it off; I do the whole thing from root to branch. I bring it back to the house.

25872. You have to go to the warehouse to get the work?

Yes, and bring it back to the warehouse.

25873. How do you get it from the warehouse; simply the material cut out?

Yes, in garments, as you get a wooden puzzle.

25874. You take it home?

I take it home, and I have to set it, and instantly I have set it. I lay it down to certain hands, and I have to superintend it all through from the start to the finish.

25875. What does "setting" mean?

I show them what to do, and have to superintend them from the start to the finish.

25876. And you generally superintend all the work?

Yes.

25877. And how many men did you say you had?

No men but myself.

25878. How many women?

Four; myself and my wife make six people in the workshop.

25879. How do you pay these hands?

I pay one, a practical sewer, 16 s. per week, at wholesale work, if she works a full week.

25880. Do

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25880. Do you pay her by the time ?

By the day ; so much a day.

25881. What does she do ?

She is a practical sewer ; she can take a coat ; she can baste up a bespoke coat ; it comes in cut from a practical cutter, and he makes the coat to be fitted on a customer ; this coat comes in to me ; I hand it to this practical sewer ; I then send it back to the warehouse to be fitted on to the customer ; then it comes back to me chalked for any alterations, and I put it up and get it made ; she can almost make the coat right out with the exception of the pressing.

25882. How do you pay the others ; by the time also ?

I have one on piecework ; she is a button-holer ; she knows nothing else, and I pay her different prices ; for bound coats I pay her a bigger price than I get for a wholesale trade. I pay her 4 *d.* for a common stock ; 4½ *d.* for bound edges ; 6 *d.* for order trade.

25883. What does she earn ?

Her average wage will come to about 12 *s.* 6 *d.* per week.

25884. All the year round ?

All the year round ?

25885. Slack time and all ?

Slack time and all ; because I have known her to earn 26 *s.* a week in the busy time.

25886. You told us just now that your busy time was six months ?

But I have known her to earn 22 *s.* in a busy time, 17 *s.*, 18 *s.*, and 18 *s.* 6 *d.*, as the case might be ; but her average wages would come to 12 *s.* 6 *d.*

25887. If she can earn 16 *s.*, 18 *s.*, and 22 *s.* during six months, and nothing else for the other six months, that would not make it an average of 12 *s.* ?

I do not say that she can earn nothing during the other six months ; she may get a day and a-half this week, and two days next week, and perhaps the week after half-a-day.

25888. What do the others do ?

I have one plain machinist working a sewing machine.

25889. How do you pay her ?

I pay her set wages, which is 6 *s.* a week.

25890. Six shillings a week just now ?

Yes.

25891. That is in the busy time ?

I shall give her more in the slack time, because she is just an improver ; I am bringing her on, and as she gets on, as she is able to do the work, I can afford to give her more money.

25892. How long has she been working for you ?

She has been working for me something like almost three months.

25893. Have you been paying her 6 *s.* per week all the time ?

No ; nothing for the first four weeks she worked with me. I lost my time by showing her what she had to do ; and then, when she was able to do a plain seam I gave her 1 *s.* a day pay. I consider 6 *s.* a week a very fair price.

25894. Have you any more learners ?

No ; I have no more learners.

25895. Do you generally have one or two learners ?

I do not care about taking them, because, when I do take them, they go into the big houses. Since this Commission has started, the leading firms in Glasgow have got up factories, as it were, bogus factories, and they have

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THOMAS CAREY.

[*Continued.*]

employed foreigners to go in and superintend the work in those factories; and the foreigners are partial to foreign labour; the foreigner will employ no person but a foreigner, if he suits him.

25896. What do you mean by "bogus factories"?

They are bogus factories in this way, they have got frightened by this Commission. In the city of Glasgow there are only three wholesale firms; I do not wish to mention their names, but the leading firms, at least two of them, have got up factories and taken in foreigners to superintend the work.

25897. What do you mean by "foreigners"?

German men that were working outside those warehouses; they have taken them in to superintend the work; they have given them the reins of power; they can appoint the time by the factory rules; and a foreigner is partial to foreign labour; he will not employ me if he can get a foreigner.

25898. I do not see why you should call it a bogus factory; do you mean that this foreman is practically a sub-contractor?

He is a sub-contractor; he is a slave driver in a sense, because he is brought there to do this; he gets so much the job, and anything that he can make on the premises does not go out to men who were making an honest living outside by this before now; and he manufactures all inside that he can manufacture, and he has a partiality to foreign labour.

25899. Do you do all the pressing in your place yourself?

All the pressing I do myself.

25900. And you keep these five women at work?

Four women.

25901. Four women and your wife?

Yes.

25902. Can you do all the pressing and keep them all at work?

Yes; I do all the pressing.

25903. Have you any idea what profit you make yourself?

I make a fair week's wages; I do not consider that I am making a profit; I make a fair week's wages, an ordinary working man's wages, from 26 s. to 30 s. per week; and if I can make 2 l. 10 s. or 2 l. 15 s. in the busy time it holds me over for the slack season. From November till February I may have a day, or a day and a-half, or two days, as the case might be, in the week, but no full week.

25904. Can you always get all the work you want to do during the busy season?

During the busy season I can get as much work as I can machine with four machines, but I cannot get it in the slack time.

25905. And how many machines do you work, four?

Four; I have a few machines reserved, because if one breaks down I have to take another.

25906. Do you ever get more work than you can do in your place?

Many weeks I have had more than I could do with the hands, but I did not want to be getting new hands.

25907. What did you do?

Left it off till the next week.

25908. Do not you, in that case, put out any work to be done?

No; my wife was ill; I had not a practical machinist, and I did give out some jobs, such as putting the pockets in a garment, to a practical machinist that used to work outside, for a short time.

25909. Do

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25900. Do any of these women that work for you take the work home?

No, all the work is done on my premises, from the time I get it till I send it to the warehouse finished.

25910. How long have you been a master?

Three years; I have been seven years in the trade; I was four years working for several parties in the city of Glasgow before I started for myself.

25911. What kind of work were you doing?

I was pressing; I was machining; I started at the very lowest grade of a garment and raised myself by perseverance and my own industry to be master of a garment till I could make it right out, that is the reason that I said just now that I was a self-taught man.

25912. Were you working for what have been called sweaters?

For several; not for the large firms; for sweaters.

25913. What could you earn?

I have 6 s. a day set wages every day I worked, but the day was very long; from two in the afternoon till 12 at night. I had to work for half a day's wages to a sweater in Glasgow. I said I would leave off at eight when I thought my half-day was lawfully up, but he refused to pay me; I was not an engaged man at the time, and he kept me on to 12 o'clock.

25914. What could you earn, as a rule, working for these sweaters?

I have 6 s. a day set, and to take it on an average, what work I could get for the whole year round, I daresay I could earn about 22 s. or 23 s. per week.

25915. All the year round?

All the year round.

25916. At what kind of work would that be?

At pressing off the middle-class work, or at machining.

25917. That was not at the beginning, was it; you did not earn that at starting, did you?

I started to press at the very beginning.

25918. What did you earn then?

I had 6 s. a day at the very start.

25919. You mean to say that knowing nothing of the trade you could earn 6 s. a day at the beginning?

I did know something about the trade, such as the pressing, and from the pressing I got on, and taught myself to be master of the trade, so that I could complete a garment, and start myself.

25920. You have told us that you have been working altogether seven years; three years as a master, four years as a man, and you tell me that at the beginning of that four years you were capable of earning 6 s. a day?

My wife was a machinist with a sweater before I married her; she had several times brought home linings, sleeves, and the tops of garments; she was a practical machinist, and by having a knowledge of those linings and sleeves, and by pressing them, I went into a sweater's place and got 6 s., the current wages at the time for what they call an "under-presser," not a practical man, but an under-presser; 6 s. for a day of 12 hours.

25921. You learnt the trade at home?

I learnt the trade at home.

25922. Is it a common thing for a woman to take home work in the way your wife used to do when working for sweaters?

It used to be, but it is not so now.

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25923. What has put a stop to it?

There is that much competition in the labour market in the City of Glasgow, that they cannot really get as much work as they can manufacture on their premises, without the workers taking any of it home.

25924. At the time you were working for a sweater could you tell the Committee what wages were earned in making up the different parts of the different garments, and what that sweater was getting for that garment from the warehouse?

I cannot say how much he was getting for the garment, but I know what he was paying for the making of it.

25925. What would he be paying for the making of it?

It is made by different parties; one makes the linings, another makes the sleeves, another does the pressing, and another the basting of the lining to the coat, and another turns it out; I could go over 20 or 30 details in the making of one garment alone; and the sweater when he gets the garment has so much for it. He has a principal machiner, generally if he can get him, a man from London or Leeds, if there is no man at Glasgow; there is generally a man at the head of the whole firm, and if there are 12 or 14 machines, he has a certain price from 7 *d.* to 9 *d.* for all the machine work on the garment. This man has all the machines employed; he has some learners and some plain machinists, and a few practical ones, as the case may be, and he pays all the machinists, and he gets so much a garment for all the garments turned out; consequently the master has nothing to do with the business, only the responsibility of taking the article out and bringing it in.

25926. That does not quite give me the prices paid to the people?

I said from 7 *d.* to 9 *d.* I cannot go into details on the sewing system, because there is one who sews on a set of buttons, and another tacks a cuff and another a collar, and so on, and those are all set wage workers. I cannot say for that, but I can say what they get for the machined part of the garment, and I know what the presser gets for the pressing of the garment.

25927. What is that?

The average he gets is 3½ *d.* all round, if there is an order or a stock.

25928. What would the sweater get for that garment?

He gets different prices for the different garments.

25929. I want you to take some particular garment, take anyone you like, and tell me what the sweater pays for the pressing and machinery of it, and what he gets for it?

A tweed jacket the sweater gets from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *s.* 9 *d.* for; he pays 6½ *d.* for the machine work, but I cannot go into details for the sewing on of buttons and other little oddments to it; he pays 6½ *d.* for the machine work, and he pays 3½ *d.* for the pre-sing.

25930. That is all he has to pay his people?

But then there are little bits of odds and ends, tacking a collar, and tacking cuffs, and sewing on a hanger: I cannot go into details without having a garment to show you how it was done.

25931. What would it come to in the whole?

There are so many different hands to it; one hand does one part of it, and another does another.

25932. Do you mean to say you do not know what it all comes to?

I know he gets from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *s.* 9 *d.* for making the jacket.

25933. And he pays 6½ *d.* for the machinery, and 3½ *d.* for the pressing you say; what else is there to pay?

A sewer for sewing on a set of buttons, that is one thing.

25934. Do you know how much he pays altogether?

I cannot go into details.

25935. You

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25935. You do not know how much it would cost the sweater to get the thing made?

What I have told you is the nearest I can go to it.

25936. What does it cost you to get it made for?

A jacket that I get 1 s. 9 d. for (I do not include my wife's labour or yet my own), would cost me 10 d. irrespective of my wife's labour or mine.

25937. How will that 10 d. be made up?

There are four hands.

25938. But how much for the machining?

I have to pay 3½ d. for the top of the garment, for putting in the pockets, and 1½ d. for the lining, that is 5 d.

25939. You told us just now, in speaking of the other man, that he paid so much for machining and so much for pressing; cannot you tell me how much it costs you for machining, and how much for pressing?

I press myself.

25940. Cannot you say how much that is worth?

I am putting it down at the sweaters' scale of prices, 3½ d.

25941. How much for the machining of the garment?

The machining of the garment right out would cost me 6½ d.

25942. Is there anything else.

Then I have a lot of different little things to do, such as sewing on a set of buttons, tacking a collar, tacking cuffs, sewing on a hanger, and other things.

25943. What do you put down for that?

I believe about 1½ d. would do all that for the garment.

25944. Is there anything further you would like to say to the Committee?

Yes, I would very much like that there should not be a privilege given to foreign labour when we have British labour which can superintend factories, wholesale clothing factories, non-union men you might call them; and the foreign labour has the precedence in the market because they do not require the foreigner to leave the security money in any warehouse he has to do with.

25945. Do you mean that you have to leave some security?

Either a reference or the current coin, it does not matter which, in any warehouse I work for of any importance; and then still a foreigner has a preference over me.

25946. How do you mean "a preference?"

Because his labour is always in demand when mine is not.

25947. But why?

Because they know that they can deal with him in a different way. The man has not the spirit of his own convictions; they can throw the work down beneath the counter, they know he will come back to-morrow and make it for less money. He comes to Glasgow and gets a house to-day, and gets a few sewing machines to-morrow, and to-morrow afternoon he finds out who I am working for, or he goes to the foreman and says, "I can make it at 3 d. a job less and put more work in it."

25948. You object, in fact, to the competition of foreigners?

I object to leading factories and firms in Britain giving them the preference compared to what they would do to a British working man.

25949. But they give them the preference because they work cheaper?

They work cheaper; that is the reason they give them the preference.

25950. And that you object to?

That I object to.

(11.)

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25951. But

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THOMAS CAREY.

[Continued.]

25951. But I do not understand what you mean by saying that you have to give a reference or make a deposit of money, and the foreigner has not?

I have had to do it in leading firms in the city of Glasgow, while the foreigner has not; in fact, his foreign accent alone are his credentials; he has only to walk into any leading house in the city of Glasgow, and that is enough. "He is a foreigner; we will take him in preference to others."

25952. Do you mean to say they will trust the foreigner when they will not trust you; I understood you to say that when you get work from these large firms you had to make a deposit, or give some reference as security that the material would be returned made up?

So I did.

25953. But that they do not require the foreigner to do that.

Some of them do, and some of them do not; but their very foreign accent and their appearance alone is enough to get them the work to begin with. They may ask them for a line, or ask, "Who knows you?" or, "How long have you been here?" but that is about all; they will not go any further.

25954. Do you mean to say that they think the foreigner is so much more honest than the Scotchman that they will give him the work without asking for any security?

There is a something; that is all I can say.

25955. Is there anything else you have to state to the Committee?

No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. HYMAN SAMUEL, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

25956. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your trade?

Tailor; manager in a tailor's workshop.

25957. Are you a practical tailor yourself?

A practical tailor.

25958. Is it a large shop that you are managing?

Pretty fair.

25959. How many hands are there?

About 30 odd, between 30 and 40 hands.

25960. Men and women?

Both.

25961. How many men?

Seven.

25962. And the rest women?

Yes.

25963. What class of goods do you make?

A certain class, a good quality class.

25964. Bespoke?

Not be-poke.

25965. Good quality of ready made?

Ready-made clothing.

25966. Is that used in this country?

Yes, used in this country and abroad too, both.

25967. Export also?

Export also.

25968. What do you call yourselves, manufacturers?

Yes.

25969. As

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Mr. SAMUEL.

[Continued.]

25969. As to this export trade, do you sell direct to the exporters?
No, we work for a firm, a firm in the export trade.

25970. And how do you take the work out from the firm at so much a dozen?

No; we just get the garments piece work out, so much a-piece.

25971. How is that price fixed between you and the place you work for?
Different prices; different qualities have different prices; a good quality a good price.

25972. Do you work altogether for one firm?
Yes, for one firm.

25973. Have you got a regular price that lasts for any length of time?
No; if they get a certain order of good quality cloth they pay a better price; if it is a commoner cloth they pay a little less.

25974. But with every order do you have different prices?
Not every order; there is an order of a hundred garments at one price, and then another hundred of garments at another price, cheaper, a little cheaper, and some better still.

25975. Do you have to go to the firm to get the orders or do they come to you?

My governor goes up to the firm and gets the goods out.

25976. When your governor goes to the firm to get the orders I suppose he gets an order for a certain number of a certain class of goods; does he ask what the price is, or is it taken for granted that it is the same price as the last order of the same kind?

The prices are always alike, and they do not have two prices; they have a certain class of trade, a certain class of cloth for a price; the prices are not lowered or raised.

25977. You mean that you are getting the same price now as you were a month ago?

They are getting the same price now as three years ago.

25978. You have nothing to do with that, I suppose?
No, I have nothing to do with the price.

25979. Then are you paid by a regular salary?
I am paid a regular salary.

25980. Have you any interest?
I have interest in this way, that all the work goes through my hands, and I have to pay the workers.

25981. But I mean have you any money interest in seeing how the work is done?
No.

25982. How are the hands paid,—by piece too?
By day.

25983. All paid so much a day?
Yes.

25984. How much?
If a woman is a good machinist she gets 5 s. per day; and if she is a plain one she gets 4 s. or 3 s., and so on; it depends on what she can do.

25985. Who settles that?
If she comes and inquires for a job, and says she earned 8 s. last week, I should say, "Well, if you will suit, I will give you a little more; make a trial."

(11.)

E

25986. I suppose

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Mr. SAMUEL.

[Continued.]

25986. I suppose you have an idea in your mind what the man and what the woman ought to be able to do?

Yes.

25987. And you pay them so much a day according to that standard; and then if you find they do better you give them more; if you find they do worse you give them less?

No; if she comes and says she has got 10 *s.* before, I say, "We will take you on at 10 *s.*;" and if we find she can do better, we give her one shilling more.

25988. And if she is not worth the 10 *s.*?

Then she only works for that week, and then goes.

25989. But supposing you find she is not worth 10 *s.* but is worth 8 *s.*?

Then we tell her, "You are not worth 10 *s.* to me; if you wish to work for this price you can, if not you must go."

25990. Is not that just as I said; if you find they are worthless you give them less for it?

Just as they please.

25991. And all your hands are paid this way, by daily wages?

Yes.

25992. Have you any learners?

A few.

25993. How many?

Four?

25994. What are you paying them?

Learners will come in and work a month for nothing; learn the machine or sewing, and then they go to 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, and every month they get one shilling or sixpence increase; it depends on how they get on with their work.

25995. And how long have these four learners that you have now got been with you?

One has been with us for seven months, one has been with us for four months, and so on; just as we require them we get them.

25996. Do you think that it pays having these learners?

It pays us for the work they do.

25997. Then I suppose you always have the same number of learners about?

Just about the same.

25998. Then have you told us how much is the highest rate of wages you pay women?

Yes, 5 *s.* per day machinists.

25999. And what is the lowest?

The very lowest gets 6 *s.* a week; that is just making sleeves.

26000. What do the men do?

There are two men pressers and three machinists, and two tailors; I am the manager, and there is a tailor besides me assisting me.

26001. What do the two pressers earn?

The presser works piece-work; he gets 3½ *d.* a-piece through, and 3 *d.*

26002. Each of the pressers?

One presser works under the other.

26003. You mean that they get 3 *d.* and 3½ *d.* between them?

No; one is an under-presser and works for the presser.

26004. Then they get this 3 *d.* and 3½ *d.* between them?

Yes.

26005. And the presser pays the under-presser what he likes?

Whatever he likes; it is just what he is worth.

26006. Then

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Mr. SAMUEL.

[*Continued.*]

26006. Then the men machinists what do they get ; is that piece-work too ?

One is on piece-work at our place, and two are on daily wages.

26007. Why do you make a difference ?

One did not want to work day-work but piece-work.

26008. What are you paying the man who is working piece-work ?

We pay him $3\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and 4 *d.* for tops, as the other gentleman has said ; the $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* is for a good class of goods.

26009. What do you pay him by time ?

Sevenpence halfpenny an hour would be the highest.

26010. Do you generally keep the same workmen all the time ?

We generally keep them all the time ; they are very seldom changed.

26011. Are you pretty full of work all the year round ?

Not quite.

26012. You have a slack season ?

Yes, a slack season.

26013. And all this work is managed by yourself and one other ?

By myself and an assistant.

26014. And is your assistant paid a regular salary too ?

He is paid a regular salary.

26015. Have you to do with settling the prices of the piece-workers ?

No, nothing to do with that. I have got the books showing whatever amount of work they get in the day.

26016. But you have to settle the prices of the time workers ?

No, I have nothing to do with that.

26017. Who does settle it ?

The governor.

26018. But you would say how much they are worth, I suppose ?

He engages them ; he should know better ; he is a better tailor than I am.

26019. Would you take any garment you like, and tell me what it costs to make up in your factory ?

Take half-a-crown garment ?

26020. What would that be ?

A jacket, or a shooting coat, one of the two ; that jacket would cost him about 1 *s.* 11 *d.* making up, because he employs all good workers.

26021. Do you mean it would cost 1 *s.* 11 *d.* to do the machining and finishing ?

Everything complete, and sometimes a little more ; it just depends upon what class of goods they are.

26022. And for that he would get 2 *s.* 6 *d.* ?

Two shillings and sixpence and so on ; there are some have 2 *s.* 3 *d.*

26023. I suppose your governor superintends the work generally ?

Yes.

26024. He does not work himself, I suppose ?

Yes, he does.

26025. What does he do ?

He helps.

26026. How ?

Fitting up and cutting the button holes, and fixing ?

26027. Do you do any work yourself ?

Yes.

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Mr. SAMUEL.

[Continued.]

26028. What do you do ?

I fix up all the things.

26029. What is that "fixing up" ?

I have to open the bundles and cut the linings to make the coat fit.

26030. And then you give them out ?

Then it goes to the presser, and then it goes to be machined.

26031. Will you take any other kind of garment and give us the price ?

There are garments at 2 s. 9 d.

26032. What will that be ?

Bound shooting coats.

26033. That is about the best kind of work you do ?

That is the best.

26034. What would that cost ?

That would cost him about 2 s. 3 d.

26035. What is the worst kind of work you do ?

The worst kind of work we do in our place is 2 s.

26036. What would that be ?

It would come to about 1 s. 6 d. or so.

26037. But what kind of clothes ?

Jackets.

26038. All your work is in coats and jackets, is it ?

Coats and jackets, and Chesterfields.

26039. How long have you been in the place ?

Seven years now.

26040. Were you working in Glasgow before that ?

Yes, and four years at another place ; I have had two places.

26041. Were you a manager in the former place, too ?

No, a learner, learning my trade.

26042. Where were you working before you came to Glasgow ?

I was not working at all ; I was at school when I came to Glasgow first.

26043. From your knowledge and experience of Glasgow, do you think there are more foreigners in the tailoring trade than formerly in Glasgow ?

No, there are fewer now than formerly because they are all going to Leeds.

26044. Is there anything more you would like to say to the Committee ?

I would say the trade is getting less in Glasgow at the present time ; they are all going to Leeds ; all the warehouses are going to Leeds, as far as I can see.

26045. What is the reason of that ; have you any idea ?

The cloth is manufactured in Yorkshire, and it is saving the expense of sending the cloth to Glasgow and then sending the orders back to England.

26046. That is perfectly natural ?

It is natural. Therefore, they get the goods made in Leeds where they get the cloth ; there they have the cloth, and there they cut it, and there they make it.

26047. Before you were working in this place were you working for one of these sweaters, as they have been called ?

No, the bespoke trade.

26048. And you could earn pretty fair wages, I suppose ?

I was only an apprentice ; I served four years.

26049. Were you regularly apprenticed, were you indentured ?

No ; I got my wages raised every six months ; I got better and got more wages.

26050. Were

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Mr. SAMUEL.

[Continued.]

26050. Were you bound as an apprentice?

No, I was not bound; but it was made so between us for four years.

26051. That you were to be taught the trade?

Taught the trade.

26052. Taught every branch of it, I suppose?

Everything.

26053. The trade is more subdivided now than it used to be, is it not?

Yes.

26054. Divided amongst different workers much more than formerly?

Yes.

26055. You do not find so many men now as you did formerly, do you, capable of finishing a garment from beginning to end?

It was very little that you find of that among our people; they can do it, but they have not the patience to do it when they can get the girls to do it for them.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Adjourned.

Die Jovis, 2^o Maii, 1889.

L O R D S P R E S E N T :

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord THRING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. JULIUS PINTO, is called in ; and having been sworn,
is Examined as follows :

26056. *Chairman.*] ARE you a wholesale clothier ?

No.

26057. What is your business ?

I am a retail clothier.

26058. Where is your place of business ?

I have one at 28, Gallowgate, and another at 201 and 203, Cowcaddens.

26059. Do you manufacture yourself ?

I do not.

26060. What is the nature of your business ?

A clothier.

26061. Do you buy all the goods you sell ?

I buy part of the goods, and another portion is bespoke trade ; but we do not get the goods made on the premises.

26062. You get them made for you off the premises ?

Off the premises. But I wish it to be clearly understood that I am not here to give evidence in my private capacity as a shopkeeper ; I am here to represent and defend the Jewish master tailors of Glasgow from the attacks that have been levelled against them.

26063. You are here to answer any questions that the Committee choose to put to you ; any evidence that you want to give I have no doubt the Committee will hear. Now you say that you buy all the goods you sell ; that you make none yourself on the premises ; is any of the work done on the premises.

I have one female worker in the Gallowgate.

26064. You do not cut the goods out yourself, do you ?

Yes, we have two cutters.

26065. Do you do all the cutting yourself ?

Yes, all the cutting myself.

26066. In the bespoke trade that is ?

In the bespoke trade.

26067. But not in the ready-made trade ?

No ; we purchase the ready-mades.

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Mr. PINTO.

[Continued.]

26058. What kind of garments do you give these out-workers?
Coats, trousers, and vests.

26069. Do you know what becomes of the goods when you have given them out?

I do.

26070. How are they made up?

They are made up in workshops; coats are made up in workshops. I employ two different Jewish tailors who do my coat work, and I employ others to make the trousers and vests.

26071. That is to say, you put out the work to these tailors and then they get them made for you?

Yes, they do.

26072. But you have nothing to do, I suppose, with how they get them made?

As long as they do them well I have nothing to do with them otherwise.

26073. You pay them a certain price?

I do.

26074. How do you arrange that price?

According to the quality of the material and the class of garments.

26075. Do the prices vary very much from time to time, I mean the prices for the same quality of goods?

Not so much in my trade.

26076. Do you know whether these tailors, who take out your work, put it out again to anybody underneath them?

They certainly do not.

26077. How do you know that they do not?

I would not permit them to do so, and I have made myself personally acquainted with that fact.

26078. You feel quite confident that all the work is done on their premises?
On their premises; I am quite confident of that.

26079. I suppose you do not know what wages they pay?

I can give you the wages; I am prepared to give you the wages.

26080. How have you got them, from inquiry of these men?

Yes.

26081. Have you got them tabulated in any way?

No, as to the wages I have not got them tabulated; but I am prepared to give them to you.

26082. Can you let me have the wages as far as you know them?

I have a statement prepared which I would like to read.

26083. As to wages, do you mean?

Including the subject of wages.

26084. Cannot you give me the wages out of that statement?

I had them prepared with the view of showing to your Lordships the wages which are paid now and which were paid some eight years ago.

26085. Do you mean the prices you pay?

No; the wages that were paid. I have also a table of the prices that were paid by the wholesale houses to the master tailors for the same class of garments, the prices of which have since been considerably reduced. Jackets, for which there was paid in the year 1881, 2 s. 4 d. to 4 s., are now reduced to 1 s. 3 d. and 2 s. 6 d., with more labour upon them now. Stitched shooting coats that were paid from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. are now made as low as 1 s. 9 d.

to

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Mr. PINTO.

[Continued.]

to 2 s. 9 d. Men's bound Chesters that were formerly paid 5 s. 6 d. are now made at 2 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 9 d. Boys' jackets that were paid 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. are now paid as low as 10 d., stitched. Boys' overcoats that were paid 2 s. 9 d. are now paid 1 s. 3 d. Then as to wages: female machinists in the year 1880 received from 10 s. to 15 s. per week; they receive now 5 s. 6 d. per day, of course according to ability.

26086. Lord *Thring*.] That is about 2 l. a week?

Five shillings and sixpence a day, I mean, for five days per week. You see they do not work on Saturdays and Sundays. It is 10½ hours per day. Male machinists receive from 8 s. to 10 s. per day, set wages. These are all set wages.

26087. *Chairman*.] Do you mean that they are paid by time?

Paid by time, not piece-work.

26088. Is it also a day of 10½ hours for the male machinists?

In the case of males, I am led to understand that they work a little longer. Of course, their pay varies according to their efficiency, according to their ability. Plain machinists would only receive 4 s. 6 d. per day. After having been only some 15 months in the trade, plain machinists are able to earn about 4 s. 6 d. per day; tailors from 6 s. to 9 s. per day of 11 hours.

26089. Men:

Yes.

26090. What do you mean there by a tailor?

A man who has a practical knowledge of the trade.

26091. Who can do any branch of it?

Any branch of it; he does the most responsible part of the work. Pressers from 7 s. to 8 s. per day.

26092. Also men, I suppose.

Also men; or for stock coats they are paid by piece, which average about 3 d. each garment.

26093. How much would that come to, do you know?

According to the quantity of work that they turn out.

26094. Yes, of course, but I mean, have you any idea what they would earn?

They would not earn much less than 6 s. a day. Under-pressers, being thoroughly unskilled, receive from 10 s. to 12 s. a week.

26095. Lord *Thring*.] Is this for five days?

Five days; I am only quoting for five days. Saturdays and Sundays no work is done. Female fellers or tailoresses receive from 10 s. to 20 s. per week. Then button-holes are paid by the piece, 4 d. to 6 d. per dozen, according to quality. Then girls, who are learners, having served a month without wages, commence at 2 s. 6 d. per week, and receive, at the expiry of each month, an increase of 1 s. per week, so that at the end of 12 months a girl can earn from 10 s. to 12 s. per week, according to her own capacity to pick up the trade. This is a fair list of the prices that have been submitted to me.

26096. *Chairman*.] Where did you get these prices from?

I got them from different parties who are in the trade.

26097. From the master tailors?

From the master tailors. It is thoroughly reliable, because I have taken steps to make inquiries in different quarters.

26098. You mean that you get the prices from the various master tailors and have compared them, and find that they are about the same.

Yes; they average very much about the same, independent of the quality of the work they do.

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Mr. PINTO.

[Continued.]

26099. You told us that a machinist would earn from 5 s. to 6 s. a-day ?
Up to 5 s. 6 d. a-day.

26100. That is 52½ hours ; five days of 10½ hours each.
Perfectly so.

26101. Do you mean that that 5 s. 6 d. a-day is the average, or that it is the highest ?
That it is the highest rate.

26102. What would be the lowest do you suppose ?

A plain machinist after having been twelve months at the trade could earn from 10 s. to 12 s. a week.

26103. And what do you suppose the average of the trade would be ?
The average must be taken from those two ?

26104. You have given me the highest and the lowest ; what would you call the average ?
About 4 s. a day.

26105. Do you mean to say that you think all the women engaged in the trade, taking an average of them all, would be earning about 4 s. a day ?
Yes ; I am quite within the limit there.

26106. Whereas formerly they could earn only from 10 s. to 15 s. a week ?
That is all.

26107. How can you account for this difference ?

Because skilled labour is much more in demand now than it was at that time. The ready-made clothing trade has within the last ten years, I may say, considerably developed in Glasgow, and consequently there is a much greater demand for skilled labour, which is not very easily supplied.

26108. Would you call the labour that is employed upon the cheapest quality of the ready-made goods skilled labour ?

Certain portions of it certainly require a great deal of skill.

26109. Which is the major portion of your business ; the bespoke or the ready-made ?

In the Gallowgate shop the major portion of my business is the bespoke trade ; in the Cowcaddens shop, however, which has not been so long established, the ready-made trade has hitherto prevailed.

26110. And you think that these prices which you have given us are to be taken as reliable in all classes of goods in the ready-made trade ?

Yes ; so far as they apply to the Jewish tailors they are thoroughly reliable.

26111. I suppose all the master tailors you employ are Jews ; or do you employ any master tailors who are not Jews ?

I have only two Jewish master tailors employed ; they make the coats, there is one for the Gallowgate shop and one for the Cowcaddens shop ; the others are all Christians, the trouser and vest makers.

26112. You said just now that these prices are accurate as regards the Jewish tailors ; do you mean that they are not accurate as regards the Gentile tailors ?

I have no idea as to the prices paid to the Gentile makers ; my coats are all made by Jews ; there are no Jewish trouser makers in Glasgow.

26113. Then these prices which you have given are only so far as coats are concerned ?

These are the prices paid by the master tailor to his employés.

26114. In the case of Jews ?

No ; I am afraid I misunderstood your Lordship.

26115. You

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Mr. PINTO.

[*Continued.*]

26115. You said just now that these were accurate as far as Jewish tailors are concerned?

Jewish master tailors.

26116. You are giving us the wages that they pay?

That they pay to Jews and non-Jews. If you refer to the table I submitted to you, you would see the number of Jews and Jewesses, males and females, that they employ.

26117. Do these wages you have given us apply to coats, trousers, and vests?

No, there are no Jewish trouser makers in Glasgow, and only one Jewish vest maker in Glasgow.

26118. Then I come back to what I said before, that these wages you have given us do not apply to trousers and vests?

No.

26119. Do you know anything about the wages that are paid for the making of trousers and vests?

I do not; I have no means of ascertaining.

26120. You do not know whether they are paid better or worse?

I have no means of ascertaining that.

26121. Can you give the number of Jewish shops in Glasgow?

Yes. You have them there in the tabular statement if you would permit me to refer to it.

26122. I see this tabular statement gives the employer's name, the class of work that he makes, the dimensions of his workshops, the situation of the lavatories, the number of persons employed, males and females, and the number of years that they have been in Glasgow, and that they have been in Britain, and their previous residence?

Yes, you have a synopsis there of the whole statement. (*The Table is handed in, see Appendix*).

26123. As I understand from you, the master tailors that you put out the work to, do not in any case act as middlemen?

There is no such system in Glasgow among Jewish master tailors as subcontracting; that phase of the matter does not exist in Glasgow at all.

26124. Not among the Jews, you mean?

Not among the Jews. My remarks only apply to the Jews.

26125. Is the number of Jews increasing or decreasing?

The general Jewish population has increased within the last decade.

26126. I mean in your trade?

No; they have considerably decreased. I wish to refute the statement on that subject which was made by Mr. McLaughlin at the last sitting.

26127. What did he say?

He simply states that he thought that the number of Jewish tailors had increased, and this is quite contrary to the fact; I have the best means of ascertaining it.

26128. You say they are decreasing; how do you account for that, supposing it is so?

I can account for it in this way: that a number of the larger firms have transferred their factories to Leeds, and consequently have taken a number of their employés with them. Others, again, have emigrated to America and the Colonies.

26129. Do you have any immigration of what have been called "greeners" in Glasgow?

It is a very unimportant factor in Glasgow.

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Mr. PINTO.

[Continued.]

26130. There are very few of them, you mean?

Very few, indeed.

26131. What becomes of them when they do come; do they get work readily?

Not amongst the tailors; they generally become pedlars or hawkers, or something of that kind.

26132. Have you got any society for supporting them, or looking after them; any Jewish board of guardians in Glasgow?

We have a philanthropic society, but we do not, as a rule, encourage these casual visitors; we look more after resident local poor.

26133. Do you know whether the Jews and Gentiles work separately, or do they work together?

They work together in Jewish tailors' workshops; and I may say that they are on the most amicable terms with one another.

26134. How do you get your trousers and vests made?

I give them all out, except that I have a female trouser-maker in the Gallowgate shop; she does a small portion of them.

26135. Do you give them out in the same way as the coats to master tailors?

Yes.

26136. Do you know how they get them made?

They get them all made on their own premises.

26137. Have you taken means to ascertain that?

I have visited them, every one; I have paid them surprise visits from time to time to ascertain that.

26138. But would it make any difference to you whether they had them made on the premises or not?

I would not permit one of them to give them out.

26139. Why not?

I would not have it done.

26140. Why?

It may have a tendency to make them under-pay those who receive them from them, and I think that they may give the work out in places that are certainly not wholesome.

26141. You think it is a bad thing, and so you would not permit it?

I would not encourage sub-contracting, under any conditions, on any account.

26142. Do you know whether the workers who work for these master tailors, who make your coats, trousers, and vests, are allowed to take any of the work home to finish?

No, it is not done.

26143. It is not done as far as you know?

No, it is not done.

26144. Do you mean that you are positive?

I am positive of that.

26145. How can you be sure?

It would neither suit the employers to allow them to take these things home, nor yet would it pay them.

26146. Why not?

I cannot explain to you why not; but after having been working from eight in the morning to, say, eight at night, 10½ hours, it is nothing but natural to expect that the workers are tired; and the amount of work that they could afterwards

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afterwards perform in their own homes would be so infinitesimally small that it would not pay the employer to permit them to take any work home.

26147. You think the employers do not let them take any work home because it would not pay them ?

It would not pay them, and it would not suit them ; they would be knocked up for the following day's work.

26148. Are they all paid by time ?

There are some of them paid by time.

26149. Nearly all of those whose wages you gave us are ?

Yes ; nearly all that I gave you.

26150. Is that the general rule ?

Yes ; the figures that I gave you apply to them all.

26151. The employers insist upon a certain amount of work being done during that time, I suppose ?

They certainly do not permit them to be idle.

26152. If they have not completed the proper amount of work in the ten and a-half hours, do you think they would not be allowed to take the goods home, and make it good ?

No, there is no such a thing as a definite number of garments being required recently to be made at a fixed wage.

26153. But there is a kind of general understanding, I suppose ?

It is an understanding that they each and all do their work when they are in the place, that they do not sit idle, but they are not expected to finish any definite number of garments.

26154. Do you know whether many or any of the principal firms in Glasgow have given up employing outworkers altogether lately ?

There is one firm, Messrs. Mann, Byars and Company ; they have ceased recently giving out their work.

26155. They have the work done on their own premises now ?

They have it done on their own premises now.

26156. Are there any others ?

No others, not recently. Other firms, such as Arthur and Company, and J. and W. Campbell and Company, and Hunter, Barr and Company, have opened factories in Leeds.

26157. That is another matter ?

These people used to give out clothing at one time, too ; that is the reason I mention it.

26158. Are you personally acquainted with the sanitary condition of these factories and workshops where your work is done ?

Yes ; I have taken particular pains upon that point.

26159. And what have you got to say about it ?

I have got this to say : that with one solitary exception that I came across, I found that the most wholesome sanitary arrangements prevailed amongst them all.

26160. Are those only the Jewish master tailors with whom you deal, or do you mean generally ?

I mean the whole of them. I have paid surprise visits to them all from time to time in order to ascertain whether there was any foundation for the allegations that were made against them ; and I may point out here with regard to the solitary instance which I mentioned just now, that the party in question has since then removed to larger and better adapted premises.

26161. I suppose there is a great deal of tailor's work done in the small shops, in the people's home, is there not, in Glasgow ?

You mean non-Jews ?

26162. Jews and Gentiles alike ?

Yes ; I have the number here, so far as it applies to the Jews, who do their

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work in workshops, and the number of those who work in dwelling-houses. I have three classes of workshops here. I have workroom, work-place, and workshop. A workroom is part of a dwelling-house on the same level as the domestic apartments; a work-place is part of a dwelling-house on a different level from that of the domestic apartments, for instance, the attics above; and a workshop is a detached factory; detached entirely from the house.

26163. How many factories do you find there are?

There are 11 factories; that is to say, 11 workshops detached.

26164. And then as to the others?

Besides, there are two parties who have work-places, that is, they are attached; they are part of the dwelling-house, but not on the same level as the domestic rooms; and then there are 15 workrooms, parts of dwelling-houses on the same level.

26165. Do the remarks that you made as to the sanitary condition of the factories apply to them?

Yes.

26166. They are all good, in your opinion?

Yes, they are; there is the solitary exception that I mentioned.

26167. Has there any change been made lately in the terms of the municipal contracts for clothing in Glasgow?

Not that I am aware of.

26168. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You say that a great many of the master tailors and their employés have gone to Leeds; what is the reason of that, do you know?

Yes. There are several reasons to be assigned for that. In the first place, the wholesale firms save the expense of transit, as, the cloth being manufactured on the spot, it is much cheaper for them to get it made up on the spot. Secondly, there is a much larger supply of that class of labour in Leeds; and in the third place, it is much more expeditious for wholesale firms catering for an English as well as a Scotch trade, to make that their central position.

26169. Lork *Monkswell*.] You say that you know the wages of the persons who are employed to do your work; I suppose you mean whether you employ them yourself or whether you employ them by means of other master tailors?

Yes.

26170. In both cases you know what wages are paid?

Yes.

26171. But what means do you take of ascertaining the wages; do you merely ask the master tailors, or do you go to the men to verify what they say?

I have asked the employés as well as the masters.

26172. And do you find that their statements correspond?

Yes, they correspond; there was no attempt at concealment there.

26173. And have you made a good many such inquiries of both masters and men?

I have.

26174. According to your evidence there would seem to be a great reduction in piece-work wages during the last eight or nine years, and concurrently with that, a considerable rise in the wages of machinists?

Yes.

26175. I suppose the reason of that is that piece-work is lowered because so much is done by machinery and done quicker?

I am rather afraid that you have misunderstood my evidence.

26176. I understood

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26176. I understood you to say that a jacket that eight or nine years ago used to be done for 2 s. 9 d. could now be done for 1 s. 3 d.?

Yes; those were the prices that were paid to the master tailors, not to the employés.

26177. Then I understand you to say that eight or nine years ago the master tailors must have been making a very enormous profit?

Yes, on the face of it, if they at that time made as many garments as they make now they would undoubtedly have done so; but as skilled labour at that time was far more difficult to obtain than it is now, the consequence was that whereas now they have to do say some 200 garments a-week, at that time they only finished it may be 30 or 40 garments a-week.

26178. Then was skilled labour dearer or cheaper then, on an average, than it is now?

Much cheaper.

26179. But their business was so much smaller?

Yes, the ready-made clothing trade at that time had not developed to such an extent as it has now.

26180. They made very large profits on each article, but they made comparatively few articles?

I do not know about that.

26181. Your statement is that the public used to give 2 s. 9 d. for what they now will only give about 1 s. 3 d. for?

Not the public; the wholesale houses.

26182. At all events, that the price paid for particular garments used to be 2 s. 9 d. and is now 1 s. 3 d.?

Yes.

26183. And when the price paid was 2 s. 9 d. the wages were rather lower than they are now when the price is only 1 s. 3 d.?

Yes, in certain branches of the trade.

26184. Therefore certain branches, at all events, of the trade made a very enormous profit eight or nine years ago on the work they did?

Undoubtedly.

26185. Do you think that one reason why skilled labour is very much sought after now is that the public want better goods?

No, it is quite the contrary; there seems to be a greater demand for ready-made clothing now than there ever has been at any time previous.

26186. Ready-made clothing of a somewhat inferior description?

Even of an inferior description.

26187. But is the ready-made clothing now of a superior or inferior description as compared with what it used to be?

It has degenerated unfortunately.

26188. Do the Jews work for Gentile masters?

Yes; I could mention the names of those who are employed by them.

26189. Why do they prefer to work for Gentile masters?

I do not say that they prefer it.

26190. They do work for them at any rate?

They do. For instance there are retail firms in Glasgow, such as the Trongate Clothing Company, Messrs. Clarke and Caldwell, Mr. Paisley, and I daresay a few others who have Jewish tailors employed on their premises.

26191. The Jewish masters do not care about exclusively employing Jews; they employ Gentiles just as much as Jews?

Yes; the proportion of Jews and Jewesses to natives I find to be eight-thirteenths.

26192. You do not find that there is a general disposition on the part of

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Jewish masters to employ Jews, and on the part of Gentile masters to employ Gentiles, exclusively?

Not by any means.

26193. *Chairman.*] The price of the goods is a great deal cheaper now than it used to be to the wholesale tailor?

The prices paid by the wholesale manufacturer.

26194. He pays less now than formerly?

He pays much less.

26195. Does he not get as good a quality?

He gets a much better finished garment now, at a lower price, than he used to get nine or ten years ago at the higher price.

26196. And yet higher wages are paid by the masters?

Yes.

26197. Do you mean that labour is paid higher all round, skilled and unskilled, and all?

Yes.

26198. Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee?

I have a statement here that, with the permission of the Committee, I should like to read.

26199. What is it about?

It is in reference to some allegations that have been made in the Press against the Jewish master tailors, and I simply wish to refute these statements.

26200. You do not mean allegations that were made before this Committee?

One or two allegations have been made before this Committee.

26201. You may say anything you like about those?

There was one made by Mr. M'Laughlin, which I have already refuted, that the number of Jewish tailors is increasing.

26202. Can you refer me to that statement in Mr. M'Laughlin's evidence?

I have one of the local papers in which it is published.

26203. You cannot refer me to the number of the answer?

I cannot. Then Mr. M'Laughlin says that Messrs. Stewart and Macdonald have, to a certain extent, erected large buildings, and engaged overseers over their work. Now this is not the case, so far as it applies to the Jewish tailors at all. I may say that Messrs. Stewart and Macdonald, in my opinion, are the largest sweaters, and the real sweaters, themselves in Glasgow. Messrs. Stewart and Macdonald have a factory in which shirts, trousers, and slop goods are made, but not coats; they still continue to give out these coats to the Jewish tailors as previously; and I mean to say this, that Messrs. Stewart and Macdonald were the firm who so very much reduced the prices to the Jewish tailors, and they are the real sweaters.

26204. What Mr. M'Laughlin said is this: "For instance, in the case of Stewart and Macdonald, Stewart and Macdonald have done it already in Glasgow to a certain extent"; that is correct, is it not?

Their factory has been in existence for a number of years, and Mr. M'Laughlin's evidence would lead anyone to believe that their change is of recent date, which is not the case; that is misleading.

22205. I will read you what Mr. M'Laughlin says; it is at Question 25690; he was making suggestions as to what he thinks ought to be done, and he says, "for instance, the municipal authority to build a large public building, and let it out to each of these wholesale sweaters, or wholesale clothing manufacturers, and for the clothing manufacturers to employ the people direct without any middle man. The wholesale clothing manufacturer could take a flat or half a flat, or as much as he wants of this public building, and put an overseer over the men, and it would be under the public eye that he would manufacture his goods."

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[*Continued.*]

goods. For instance, in the case of Stewart and Macdonald, Stewart and Macdonald have done it already in Glasgow to a certain extent ; of course they had to do it on their own responsibility ; so have Arthur and Company carried out that principle ; they have taken a large building, and have put all their workers into that building, and put an overseer over them ; instead of giving out the work as they once did to sweaters, now they have them all under one roof, and an overseer over them, and that overseer has the whole charge of that building and all that is in it ; and he is not a sweater ; each worker is remunerated according to the labour produced." As I understand you, you say that is not correct, so far as the coats are concerned, which are still put out to the Jewish tailors to make ?

Perfectly so.

26206. Is there anything else that you wish to say ?

I wish to say that the system of sub-contracting, as defined by Mr. Arnold White in his evidence, does not exist in Glasgow. I would say this : that the agitation that has been got up by the native tailors in Glasgow against the Jewish tailors is, in my opinion, nothing more nor less than an outcry for protection in their favour ; and I would venture to say to the native tailors, Scotch and English, that if they would discontinue their worship of Bacchus, relinquish their St. Mondays and St. Tuesdays, become more reliable and steady workers, and adapt themselves, as the ignorant, but industrious and sober Jewish tailors have done to the requirements of the times and the trade, within a short time they would be able to compete very favourably with foreign labour.

26207. We have not got it before the Committee that there is any agitation in Glasgow on the part of the Gentile tailors against the Jewish tailors, but I take it from you that if there has been, you think it is founded only upon the desire of the Gentile to be protected against the Jewish labour, which he finds inconvenient to him on account of the greater sobriety and industry of the Jewish workman ?

And one more feature, and that is, that the Gentile tailor does not wish to move with the times ; he adheres to the old antiquated manner of getting up garments. That is what I wished to say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES PITKETHLY, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

26208. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business ?

Wholesale clothier in connection with the firm of R. S. Muir and Company, for the last 40 years, nearly.

26209. Are you one of the partners in the firm ?

Yes.

26210. Is your business both ready-made and bespoke ?

We are export clothiers more particularly than dealers in home clothing, except for contract clothing ; we never did what is understood to be a home clothing trade ; that is to say, supplying the people or retail shops with clothing.

26211. But you take contracts ?

We take contracts.

26212. What kind of contracts ?

Railway contracts for their uniforms ; police contracts for their uniforms ; and various others where it is made in quantity.

26213. Municipal contracts ?

Municipal contracts.

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Mr. PITKETHLY.

[*Continued.*]

26214. Have you a factory ?

We have a factory in one sense, but it is only part of the establishment that we have ; it is all connected ; it is not separated ; it is all together.

26215. I mean do you manufacture the goods yourselves, or do you get them made by outworkers ?

We manufacture the clothing within ourselves, on our own premises.

26216. You manufacture it all yourselves ?

All ourselves.

26217. That is the clothing ?

The clothing.

26218. What is it that you do not manufacture yourselves ?

We do not manufacture the cloth ; we purchase the cloth of which the garments are made, and we only manufacture the garments.

26219. When you say that you manufacture the clothing yourselves, do you mean that you manufacture everything that you sell yourselves ?

Everything that we sell.

26220. Shirts and all ?

Shirts also.

26221. And you employ no outworkers of any kind ?

For finishing our shirts we employ females that come in and take the work out, a dozen or two dozen say, as it may occur ; nothing at all of any quantity to any one individual in shirts.

26222. And for finishing the clothing ?

We finish it all within ourselves, on our own premises.

26223. Since when have you manufactured yourselves to this extent ?

We have never done it any other way ; the very small proportion indeed that we gave to people that we know, a single garment, or two garments, and so on, that they could make up in their own homes, was the utmost extent that we ever did outside.

26224. Up till when did you do that ?

Till the present time.

26225. You are still doing it ?

We are still doing it.

26226. You said just now that you manufactured it all on your own premises ; now you say not quite all ?

We manufacture it all in the sense that the shirts are made up inside, and they are only finished outside by females that come in and take them away in dozens or two dozens at a time.

26227. I was not then talking of shirts ; I was talking of clothing ?

We make it all up inside ; we have machines for doing portions of the work.

26228. You make it all up inside, you say ?

We make it all up inside.

26229. Then I repeat the question I asked you before ; how long is it since you made it all up inside ?

We have always done it since we did anything at all.

26230. Then you never have given out any work at any time ?

With these exceptions that I name.

26231. What are these exceptions ?

I beg your pardon, I only repeat what I said before ; it is only so far that I except these parties, perhaps, not half-a-dozen men that have been working outside

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[Continued.]

outside in their own homes, where we have supplied them, perhaps, with a couple of garments to make up at a time.

26232. Then you are not quite correct in stating that you make it all up on your own premises?

To that extent, certainly, I am not correct; but even as to that we have latterly given it up entirely.

26233. You said just now that you were still doing it; have you given it up say, since last year?

We have done it all along, but latterly we have done it very much less.

26234. Do you know to how many persons outside you were giving work in 1887?

Nor more than three or four, perhaps.

26235. In 1888, to how many?

About the same; not so many.

26236. And now, still less?

Still less now.

26237. That would apply to jackets and vests, police tunics, and everything you make?

Yes.

26238. How many hands do you employ?

The number varies very considerably according as we require them, from 20 to perhaps 40.

26239. Men and women?

Men chiefly; these are for tailors' workmen.

26240. Then I understand from you that a large proportion of your business is executing contracts?

Contracts.

26241. That is to say, that you might have a sudden demand for a large quantity of garments, how do you manage to find the labour?

These contracts only occur at particular seasons of the year for which we are prepared, at the beginning of the year.

26242. Then you have no difficulty in getting the labour you require?

No, we have not much difficulty, because the retail tradesmen of that description are not doing so much at that particular time of the year.

26243. And what becomes of this labour during the rest of the year when you are not executing the contracts, do you know at all?

They go elsewhere; they go to different towns.

26244. Do you ever sub-let any of your contracts?

Never.

26245. Or do you ever put them out, any portion of them, to be made up by anybody else?

No, not in any quantity.

26246. You mean only in the way you have mentioned just now?

Exactly; a couple of garments, perhaps, to one man; but even that we have given up.

26247. I think I did not ask you where your place of business is?

In Ingram-street.

26248. Only one place of business?

Only one place.

26249. Has your factory been visited by the factory inspector?

It has always been open, and it has been visited.

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Mr. PITKETHLY.

[*Continued.*]

26250. Have any complaints ever been made about the sanitary condition?

Not any very heavy complaint; there has been a complaint about not having the abstract of the Factory Act hung up, but we have it in one of our places.

26251. As to the sanitary condition, I am asking you?

We have had no complaint about that.

26252. I suppose it is visited by the sanitary inspector?

Yes.

26253. He has visited it, and made no remarks?

No.

26254. Are you still taking contracts for police tunics and contracts for the municipality of Glasgow?

Wherever we can get them; we try to get as many as we can.

26255. Are you taking any from Glasgow now?

There are none going just now from Glasgow. The contract for the police, which is the principal one in Glasgow, has been fulfilled; we made it up during the currency of last winter.

26256. Was there any variation in that contract from former contracts, any difference?

No.

26257. No clause that the goods were to be made up on the premises?

That was always understood, that they were made up on the premises.

26258. Was there a clause in that contract last year requiring them to be made up on the premises?

There was a clause in that contract last year.

26259. Was there the year before?

No.

26260. Do not you call that a difference?

It is a difference so far; simply in consequence of what has been brought out by these reports that have appeared in the "Lancet" upon one or two cases, and our workshops were visited by the magistrates before the contract was signed, and they were satisfied with them.

26261. Had they ever visited your place before, in former years?

Yes; I think they have in one or two cases.

26262. But, although in former contracts there was no clause binding you to carry out the whole of the contract on your own premises, I understand from you that you always did carry it out on your own premises?

Always.

26263. Never put a part of it out except these one or two things you have mentioned?

Never.

26264. How many foremen have you got; how do you carry on the business?

We have one foreman over our tailor department, and another foreman over our shirt department, to superintend it?

26265. Only two?

Only two.

26266. The one foreman has to superintend the cutting out and machining, and finishing, and everything?

Yes.

26267. How are they paid, by regular salary?

Salaries.

26268. They

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[Continued.]

26268. They have nothing to do, or have they anything to do, with settling the rate of wages that the workers receive?

No.

26269. How do you pay them, by the piece?

By the piece.

26270. Can you tell the Committee what your rates of payment are at present?

Varying from 3 s. 3 d. to the workmen (but that does not include the cost of the machine girl, who is there as well), and 4 s., and 4 s. 6 d. to 7 s., and 7 s. 6 d.

26271. Have the workmen got to pay the machine girl?

No.

26272. You said "not including"; the sum you have mentioned does not include that!

That sum is paid to the workmen; that does not include what we pay the machine girl for her work.

26273. What do you pay the machine girl for her work?

We pay her 14 s. or 15 s. a week.

26274. By time?

By time.

26275. Can you tell the Committee what you pay for finishing your shirts outside?

We pay from 4½ d. to 2 s. 6 d. a dozen.

26276. Does it vary according to the quality?

It varies according to the quality; with regard to the 4½ d. shirt we only get about 6 s. a dozen for the shirts altogether; but it varies according to the quality of the shirt.

26277. Are the prices higher, do you think, generally, in the trade now than they used to be formerly?

I cannot say that they are much higher.

26278. Are wages about the same, do you think?

Men's wages are about the same; women's wages are much about the same, too.

26279. Do you think there is a greater demand now for skilled labour than formerly?

In my own experience there is not any increase in the skilled labour that is required, so far as our own business, I mean, is concerned.

26280. As far as your own business is concerned you say; I was rather asking you of the trade generally; I suppose with your long experience you must have a pretty good knowledge of the trade generally in Glasgow, have you not?

Yes; but I have had very little experience outside of my own business.

26281. You would not like to say whether in the trade generally there is a larger demand than formerly for skilled labour?

I could not say.

26282. And, I suppose, I need not ask you any questions as to the condition of these out-workers and so-called sweaters, and so on, as you do not employ them?

We do not employ sweaters. The outside workers that do our shirts are generally the wives of artizan and various other workmen, who have nothing to do at home during the absence of their husbands, and it is so much money earned, when otherwise they would have gone idle.

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Mr. PITKETHLY.

[Continued.]

26283. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do you employ any Jews among your hands?

We have employed them on perhaps two or three garments at a time; never in any quantity.

26284. But among your regular hands have you got any Jews?

No, I am not aware that we have a single Jew in our workshop.

26285. You say that your men, some of them at least, go away for a time when the work is slack; do you have any difficulty in filling their places, or do the same workmen come back again?

Almost always when trade ceases in the country they come back to us; they begin to come back in July.

26286. Do you have any fixed price list for the various garments?

No, we have no fixed price; we fix the price when we know what we are going to get for the garments ourselves from our contract.

26287. And do you put up anything in the way of lists for the various garments in the workshop?

No.

26288. You settle it with the men?

Settle it with the men direct; they are all men that we have to do with.

26289. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you go on the principle of making so much per cent. on the price you are paid for the contract, or do you go on the principle of paying men what you consider a fair price for the article they make?

We go on the principle of endeavouring to give the man a fair week's salary for his work. Some men can only earn from 12 s. to 14 s., and others doing the same work will earn a guinea.

26290. You said it depended on the price you got for your contract how much you paid your men?

Certainly, the fixing of the price depends on the price of the contract.

26291. Therefore, if you get a contract at what you consider a fairly remunerative price, you pay your men more than if you are beaten down on the contract?

It is so; we cannot give what we do not get.

26292. Then you do not in all cases endeavour to screw the men down to the lowest point you can get them to work to; but if you have a fairly remunerative contract yourself, you allow them to some extent to share in the benefit resulting from that contract?

Certainly.

26293. *Chairman*.] How many rooms have you?

We have two large rooms, one over the other, in one part of our premises, and in another building adjacent, with which we have vocal communication, we have a large flat consisting of five rooms, formerly a dwelling house; it is lighted from both back and front.

26294. What would be the size of the rooms?

The rooms are 22 by about 18 feet each. And in connection with that I would like to say that Mr. McLaughlin speaks about us having 100 men in these rooms. We never had 100 men in our employ altogether.

26295. I do not think that Mr. McLaughlin said anything about you?

The report which I have here before me is that. He puts it that he visited "one large establishment in Ingram-street, one of the largest places of the kind in the kingdom." Now that is an exaggeration also.

26296. I do not think Mr. McLaughlin mentioned you at all or Ingram-street. I expect what you allude to is this, at No. 25553, "The worst place that I visited in Glasgow, I may say, does not belong to what you would call a sweater, but

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[*Continued.*]

but a contractor, and he gives out sweating. He employs about 100 men. His men had to work in rooms which are what we call bedrooms, nothing more or less. There were five of these rooms that I visited, and there were 20 men in each of them?"

I have given you the size of the rooms; I do not understand how he could have made such an exaggeration as that; and as to finding a hundred men there we never had 100 men in our employ.

26297. He says that the contractor to whom he refers employs about 100 men; you say that if that statement is meant to apply to you that is not the case?

No.

26298. And that there are not 20 men in each of these five rooms?

No.

26299. And that the rooms are of the size you have mentioned?

Yes, the five rooms that he alludes to here.

26300. Have you made any alteration in the sanitary arrangements of your premises lately?

Not lately. There are two water-closets connected with these five rooms, and these are particularly looked after every week by a man that looks after them; one of the workmen that we pay extra to do it.

26301. You have made no alteration in the last year or two?

Not in the arrangement of these.

26302. But in the cleanliness have you made any alteration in the last year or two?

We made no alteration, because we did not see that it requires alteration.

26303. You say in your answer, "No, we have made no alteration in the arrangements lately." By your saying, "in the arrangements," that led me to infer that you had made some alteration in something else, that is what I want to know?

No, we have made no different arrangements than those we found when we entered into possession of these places.

26304. Lord *Monkswell*.] Has the factory inspector ever been into your premises?

I believe so.

26305. You know it?

I have been told that he was there; I cannot say that of my own knowledge I have seen him there except when he came upon one occasion; he came particularly.

26306. You are satisfied that he has been there within the last 14 years?

I should think so.

26307. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] He does not come very often?

He may come without my knowledge; occasionally I daresay he may, but he does not come very often with my knowledge.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES BURN RUSSELL, M.D., is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

26308. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your position?

Medical Officer of Health of Glasgow.

26309. How long have you occupied that position?

Between 16 and 17 years.

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[Continued.]

26310. You have, I think, have you not, some special bye-laws in Glasgow? That is as to ticketing small houses.

26311. Could you explain that a little further to the Committee?

Houses containing not more than three apartments, and not more in the aggregate than 2,000 cubic feet, are measured, and have affixed to them, on the outside door, a tin-plate ticket on which the cubic contents are marked, and the number of inmates allowed in consequence.

26312. You allow so many inmates?

The number of inmates is in proportion to the cubic contents; one adult to 300 cubic feet, and a child under eight counts as a half. The presence of that ticket upon the outside door is a guide to the night inspectors, who go round in the course of each night in the week in some district or other of the town, and have the right of admission, and compare the number of inmates they find with the number that the house ought to have; and if there is a violation of the bye-laws, that involves a summons before the magistrate, and a small fine, as a rule, especially if it is connected with lodgers.

26313. Would that affect rooms that were used only for working in by day, and not for sleeping in?

Yes, anything; any house under the control of one person, that house being three apartments, and not containing in the aggregate more than the number of cubic feet I have mentioned, 2,000 cubic feet.

26314. How long have those bye-laws been in existence?
Since the Police Act of 1862.

26315. Are the owners or occupiers obliged to furnish the particulars to the authorities, or how do you get at them?

Practically our usual guide is this, that if we happen to have overlooked a district or a stair where those houses exist, we are very often attracted to it by the outbreak of disease such as fever. The population fluctuates so much, and there is an abominable practice of what we call making down houses, by which you may find at one time a house of five apartments occupied as such by a tenant who is responsible for all the five apartments, and in the course of the next few months something or other deteriorates the character of the locality and creates a demand for small houses, and without saying anything to anybody the owner may let each separate room to a separate family, and the inspector will have to find that out.

26316. Whom do you make responsible; the occupier or the landlord?
You mean responsible for overcrowding?

26317. Yes?
The occupier.

26318. And, as I understand you, these dwellings have to be registered and ticketed?

That is so.

26319. Do you charge anything for registration?
No.

26320. And do I understand that the authorities have power to enter at any time?

That is so.

26321. Day or night?
Day or night.

26322. And you issue the tickets, I suppose?
We do.

26323. And charge nothing for them?
Nothing.

26324. How

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[Continued.]

26324. How many houses have you on the register?
In round numbers, 24,000.

26325. In every one of these cases the ticket specifies the number of inmates to be allowed?

The number of inmates. At the top of the ticket is the total measurement of cubic feet; below that is the number of inmates.

26326. I think you told us how many cubic feet you require to each adult?
Three hundred.

26327. As to children?

Two children under eight count the same as one adult; but our opinion, as the health authority, is that it ought to be 400 cubic feet; and we have the intention, if we go for any Bill, to ask for 400; we think 300 is too little.

26328. Are you proposing to bring in a Bill?

That is put out of the question by the Burgh Health Bill, but if we cannot get what we want through that, we will certainly try to get it through some local Bill.

26329. Have you a large staff employed in visiting those registered houses?

We have six men; they go in couples, of course, for the purpose of evidence; and these three pairs of men are out every night in the week. They do not go systematically so that the people could anticipate their visits, but they make surprise visits which lead them to every part of the town where those houses exist.

26330. Do you know whether many of these registered houses contain workshops of any kind; or whether the work is carried on in the dwelling-rooms?

I cannot give anything like a specific statement, but I have no doubt that there is more or less domestic work in those houses.

26331. Have you found any practical difficulty in carrying out this bye-law?

No, none; it works very smoothly, and we are deeply satisfied that it has been a very wholesome measure for Glasgow as regards the disposition to overcrowd, which is so ingrained in the poorer class of the population.

26332. Do they endeavour to evade the law generally, or do you find that generally they observe it?

Well, it is just as in everything else; you find there are a few, a small percentage of people, who cannot be got out of this disposition, vicious people in fact; and we find these folks shift about; in fact, they dodge the inspector, and carry their habits with them; but the bulk of the people really are improved; in fact, if the magistrates find a poor man whose family has overgrown the dimensions of his house, they always give him a little time to get a new house, which they generally do. If it is from taking in lodgers, of course it is a different matter.

26333. What is the sanitary condition of these houses generally?

Well, it is not good. Wherever overcrowding is, you will find that there is a disposition to dirt, personal and general.

26334. I suppose your inspectors visit the workshops generally throughout the town?

We regard the workshops in so far as they come under the Factory Act as being in the care of the factory inspectors, and our sanitary work is done through them; that is to say, we expect that we will get notice of any defect in such matters as water-closet accommodation.

26336. You rely upon the factory inspector notifying you if there is anything wrong with the workshops that come under the Factory Act?

Precisely.

26336. Then as to other shops which do not come under the Act, where the family only are employed, or where no women are employed?

(11.)

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[Continued.

These come under the category of the house inspection that we carry on. My personal acquaintance with such work is principally through an outbreak of infectious disease ; we always regard that as a very serious element if we find that any kind of domestic employment is carried on in a house where infectious disease has broken out.

26337. What would you say is the general sanitary condition of such workshops as come primarily under your notice ?

As regards water-closet accommodation, that is a matter in which I cannot say much with reference to the small house accommodation at Glasgow generally. The system in Scotland of building in flats, and this system which I have described, of making down houses which probably were large and had one water-closet for the convenience of the one family, into small apartments without increasing the water-closet accommodation, all that makes such accommodation both defective and very difficult to introduce without creating a nuisance almost as bad as the want of the water-closet creates.

26338. Have you found the presence of infectious disease frequent in workshops ?

There is a considerable percentage of cases of infectious disease in which we have to take special precautions owing to that matter of work. Of course our object is to prevent the opening up of this new channel of conveyance of the infection to the public through clothing or anything else made, and we do not primarily pay attention to the employment of strangers, or merely the family, but simply as to articles that are intended to go out to the public.

26339. That is what I want to get at, whether in your experience you think there is any danger or great danger of infection being spread by clothing ?

Yes, I am quite satisfied that there is very considerable danger ; the house and business are much mixed up in Scotland. We are greatly troubled also with the conjunction of domestic life with provision shops and milk shops, and that sort of thing, which is much worse in its possible effects, as regards contagious disease, than anything that can arise from clothing.

26340. Disease is more likely to be carried in the milk and in food than in clothing ?

Yes.

26341. Do you require workshops to be lime-washed at any regular intervals ?

Those that are under the Factory Act, of course we do not have anything to do with.

26342. But with regard to such places as do not come under the Factory Act ?

They must be very dirty indeed before we can interfere.

26343. Have you ever had to close houses as being unfit to be used as workshops or as habitations ?

Oh, yes.

26344. Frequently ?

Frequently.

26345. Do you find any difficulty on account of the poverty of the occupiers of these houses, in compelling them to go to the expense that you think is necessary for keeping their places in proper sanitary condition ?

We have removed all difficulty in that respect, because we supply them with material for such a thing as lime-washing, or brushes, if they really are poor ; the authority many years ago agreed to that.

26346. That is left to your own judgment ?

That is left to our own judgment. Of course our staff are well acquainted, or they can soon make themselves well acquainted, if they do not happen to know it, with the position of any individual applicant.

26347. Is

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[Continued.]

26347. Is it the case that a workshop which is under the supervision, and liable to the inspection of an inspector under the Factory Act, we will say to-day, may be so changed as to cease to be liable to his inspection, perhaps, next week or next month, or in some short time; I mean that the workshop might be under the factory inspector, but by dismissing women, or a woman, or a child, it might cease to be under the factory inspector, or by dismissing hired labour it might cease to be under the factory inspector?

Yes; I do not know of specific cases, but the conditions which bring them within the Factory Act might easily be got over, they are of that temporary nature.

26348. What I want to find out from you is this: you told us that you co-operate with the factory inspectors; that is to say, you expect them to report to you anything unsanitary in places subject to their supervision; what I want to find out is whether it is possible that you may omit these places under the supposition that they are under Factory Act, whereas they may have ceased to be under him?

That is quite so. That just brings me to the difficulty which is obvious on the face of all these sanitary circumstances of workshops, the difficulty of getting the authorities acquainted with the existence of such places. I can say that as a sanitary authority we are both able and willing to deal with any conditions of a sanitary nature, but our difficulty is to find out where these conditions exist of employment of labour; and I should think it must be very much the same with the factory inspectors in the case of those small businesses which are here to-day and away to-morrow, and set up in fragments of houses upon stairs that contain several flats, and each flat contains, perhaps, four or five, or, perhaps, eight or ten houses; it is a very difficult matter to know what is going on in those stairs.

26349. Do you see any way in which these difficulties could be overcome or lessened?

In reference to the association of labour with the home life, we have the analogy in the Lodging Houses Acts of the clauses by which people must intimate their intention to add this business of keeping lodgings to their ordinary family economy, get registered, and put themselves under supervision.

26350. As it is now it is left to the various inspectors to ferret out these places and find them out for themselves?

That is exactly so. We are poking round through the city without any particular guide, and it is just a matter of chance.

26351. You think it would be better if it were compulsory on the people to notify the authority that they were going to carry on a particular trade?

Distinctly.

26352. In other words, that all rooms or places where work is carried on should be registered?

That they should be registered.

26353. You think that that would be a good plan?

I think it would be a good plan. One hardly sees how it could be made to comprehend more than the case of the employment of labour, because really taking work to do by the family alone is so common, being a matter of private arrangement of the family, that I question whether it would be practicable to bring it thoroughly within the scope of a regulation as to registration.

26354. I understand that it is not left to you to decide whether the place is overcrowded or not, but that you have a regular scale laid down for you?

That is so.

26355. Which you do not think is quite sufficient?

We do not think it is quite sufficient.

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[Continued.]

26356. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Is the scale laid down by bye-law or by the Act?

By the Act.

26357. *Chairman*.] Are the occupiers compelled by these bye-laws to give you notice in cases of infectious disease, or are you left to find that out?

We are left to find it out. Everything in the case of infectious disease, unless in a common lodging-house, we have to find out for ourselves. Of course I need scarcely point out that if there was, as there ought to be, compulsory notification of infectious diseases, that would eliminate a great deal of difficulty with reference to the relations of infectious disease to this element of domestic labour, as well as with reference to many other things.

26358. Did you make any special inquiries last year in Glasgow as to the sanitary condition of these places that you have spoken of?

I observe in the Appendix to the First Report of this Committee a list of places in which sweating was stated to be carried on in Glasgow, and I thought this was a good illustration of what I felt has been very much wanting; that is to say, precise information as to where these places were, that one might go and look at the condition of things; but I found that the information there was difficult to follow on account of deficient addresses, and, in some cases where an address was given, finding it to be a wrong address.

26359. There was a report made, was there not, by the Operative Tailors' Society?

I think that is the report I am alluding to; the Scottish tailors.

26360. Did you make any special inquiries with reference to that?

I caused the inspector of each district in which these addresses were to visit and make a distinct report of what he found.

26361. Would you say that the Scottish Tailors' Society's report was, in the main, accurate?

The serious defect is the absence of addresses, and errors, so that one could not make much of it. I felt also, of course, that if there was any sanitary complaint in so far as it was within our jurisdiction, had we got any hint of it at all, we would have attended to it at once. Having a distinct office, a distinct existence, known to every poor person in Glasgow, we get a good deal of information about sanitary defects that otherwise we might overlook, from the people themselves. A post-card with the number of the street on it is quite sufficient to set us upon the scent, and in reference to the matter of water-closet accommodation, we get very frequently, I think frequently, at any rate, from the employé's valuable information directing us to defects of that kind.

26352. What I wanted rather to get from you was whether independently of the addresses being right or wrong, the general tenour of the report to which you have alluded is in your opinion fairly accurate?

It is very fairly accurate. I may say that in general.

26353. Are bed-rooms generally used, or frequently used as work-rooms, in your experience?

Well, you see, a large proportion of the houses in Glasgow are bed-rooms and everything else; they are single apartments; and even in such houses we see work going on.

26354. Did you hear the last witness, Mr. Pitkethly's evidence?

No; I was out of the room till quite the conclusion of it.

26355. I should like to ask you as to statement made by Mr. M'Laughlin some little while ago before the Committee, that Mr. Pitkethly thought applied to Messrs. Muir and Company. Mr. M'Laughlin, at No. 25553, speaks of a place of business which he complains of, and says that there are 100 men employed in five rooms, 20 men in each room, and so on; and he says a little further down, at No. 25555, that there was "a charcoal fire for heating

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heating their irons, and they had to keep the gas alight all day to see to do their work ;” and he concludes by saying, “when you opened the door of the place you could not stand there unless you had marvellous strong lungs ; I could not stand it.” Then I asked him at No. 25557 ; “Was this place subject to factory inspection ?” to which he replied, “Yes ; but it seemed that the factory inspector had never visited it ; neither the sanitary nor factory inspector, for 14 years before our visit.” Do you know anything of that ?

That may be quite true as regards the sanitary inspector, because it is distinctly under the Factory Act, and we would not think of going near it.

26356. But the factory inspector has nothing to do with the sanitation, has he ?

The sanitation must all come through him. As regards ventilation and over-crowding and cleanliness, that is distinctly, according to the Act, under him ; and, as regards water-closet accommodation, we look to him to give us information, if it is defective.

26357. But do you mean that you consider that you are not entitled to enter a place that is under the factory inspector ?

Well, I believe it comes to that, according to the Scotch Public Health Act. We find that in no case do these employers of labour like two authorities to be coming round them ; they would just as soon deal with one and with the other, if they have a right through that one ; and probably that is more convenient, in order to have no clashing ; at any rate, that is the law.

26358. Assuming that Mr. Pitkethly is right in saying that this statement of of M'Laughlin's is meant to refer to his place of business in Ingram-street, do you know anything about it ?

I know it perfectly well ; and I know it, also, with special reference to this occasion, because the contract for police clothing was held by this firm ; and the Corporation, of course, feeling themselves, being the Health Authority, involved somewhat in these statements, and responsible also to some extent, asked me to go and specially inspect the place, with reference to this contract.

26359. When was this, last year ?

Yes, last year ; and, I believe, that the time of year when I had to go was one when there were no heavy contracts on, so that I could not take anything I saw as any guide to what it would be if work was going on at high pressure ; but certainly there was no over-crowding, and the closet accommodation seemed to be quite sufficient. The cleanliness was probably not quite what it might have been, but there were workpeople busy when I called putting it all right.

26360. If you had called a little later you would have found nothing to complain of ?

If I had called a little later I should have found nothing to complain of.

26361. Lord *Thring*.] Did you hear Mr. Pinto's evidence ?

I believe I did, the most of it.

26362. Do you agree with it as to the condition of the workshops ; he said that they were everything that was to be desired in their sanitary condition ?

He spoke with reference to the Jews, I think ?

26363. Yes.

Of course I cannot speak specially with reference to those workshops, but our experience of the Jews generally is not such as to lead us to expect that there will be very special attention paid to cleanliness.

26364. With respect to these ticket houses, what houses are by law subject to this ticket law, which you have described ?

If a house consists of four apartments then it is outside all our powers ; if it consists of three apartments it is within our powers, but then it must not exceed in total cubic capacity 2,000 feet ; the three apartments must not exceed that.

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[Continued.]

26365. By a "house" do you mean a flat?
A holding.

26366. It may be in flats or it may be separate?
Yes, it may be the tenth part of a flat, a room, where there are two houses of five apartments on each flat.

26367. The ticket law only applies to houses of three apartments?
Yes, if it is four it is outside all our powers. The object, of course, was to catch the most gross and serious cases of over-crowding, to the danger of health.

26368. As a matter of fact, is the law considered, as far as you know, oppressive or not?

No; and I have been somewhat astonished at that, because, of course, on the face of it, it is a summary interference with a person's privacy to knock him up in the middle of the night, and count all the inmates you find in the house; but the public are thoroughly convinced, that in fact, existence is not possible for those people except under such drastic regulations.

26369. Then, do you practically go in where women and children are sleeping, and examine, under the Act?
Yes.

26370. And that is not resented?
Not at all. I am afraid that people have not got a very good idea of the kind of conditions of life in these places; it seems very astonishing, but it causes no complaint whatever.

26371. Why is the line drawn between three and four apartments, can you tell me?

Our practical experience is that the evils we wish to combat are to be found in the three-apartment house and below.

26372. Speaking generally, what would be the size of a three-apartment house; in ordinary language, I mean; how many people would live in a three-apartment house?

The average would be $5\frac{1}{2}$. I include in that the whole average of the city, not the over-crowded houses, because there is no limit to the number you may get in them.

26373. But I mean as a general rule?
Yes; $5\frac{1}{2}$, I should think.

26374. What is the amount of the fine that they inflict if the law is disobeyed?

One shilling; 2 s. 6 d. if it is a lodger.

26375. And practically it works?
It does; it works very well.

26376. Is there such a law anywhere else, are you aware, in Scotland?
Yes; in Edinburgh and Greenock.

26377. And the Act of 1862, which exists in Glasgow, has never been opposed in Parliament?
No, not at all.

26378. I should like to know this from a man of your great experience: You say that the compulsory notification of infectious diseases would be so great a benefit; do you think that it would be borne by the people?
Yes.

26379. What would you do in case of neglect; put on a fine?
You would impose the obligation upon the medical profession.

26380. That would mean the doctors, not the diseased people?
Yes, not the diseased people.

26381. And

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[*Continued.*]

26381. And you think that the medical profession would submit to that?

I think so; there would be opposition, they would not be unanimous; but from my intercourse with them, I believe that you would get the general support of the profession in that.

26382. What would you propose to do upon that notification, in cases where they had no accommodation for the diseased persons; would you propose to move them to the hospital?

Yes.

26383. Would you take compulsory powers for that?

Yes, I think we have ample powers now under the Public Health Act to remove, or take any other precaution that we find necessary, provided we know the circumstances.

26384. Now can you tell me also from your experience, whether that removing of persons has ever been resisted?

My individual experience is this: that if you have a hospital which is well conducted and popular, and has got a good name among the people, you will get folks to go to it without any trouble whatever, and not once in a twelve-month would you require to take a warrant, and then only with some ignorant person who had just migrated from Ireland or the Highlands, and did not understand the circumstances in which they would find themselves in the hospital.

26385. That would be the feeling in Glasgow?

That is so.

26386. Then with respect to the infectious hospitals; do you mean that they have special small-pox and fever hospitals, or that they mingle them?

We have got a special small-pox hospital, and a fever hospital.

26387. But in your opinion is it, or is it not, necessary to have distinct hospitals for certain infectious diseases; take small-pox and fevers?

Small-pox certainly. It is very difficult to say from the experience of Sheffield lately, what we are to do with a small-pox hospital if it is to be allowed to exist at all; it seems to be a fact that any such hospital, once you come to a certain pitch of numbers, produces an infection which spreads through the air to the neighbourhood.

26388. And is not that the case in your judgment with fever?

No; so far as one has observed there are no observations anywhere tending to that conclusion.

26389. Taking Glasgow, may I ask what number of infectious hospitals you have there?

We have got two; we have got a fever hospital with 390 beds, and a small-pox hospital with 150 beds, and we have a reserve hospital with 150 beds which has not been used for years, but we keep it as a stand-by in case of need.

26390. And that is sufficient for the known infectious diseases of your vast population?

That is so.

26391. Are not fever hospitals liable to get saturated; to get, in other words, so full of fever that they make the disease more virulent?

I do not believe that at all. The notion takes its rise from Sir James Simpson; but whatever may have been the case with regard to hospitals for puerperal women, and I doubt it even with regard to them, certainly as to fever hospitals there is no ground for such a notion.

26392. You do not send women with puerperal fever to the fever hospital, do you?

We do; we do not go looking for it, but in the event of a case occurring amongst the poor where there is no other resource for them, we do not hesitate to take it into the fever hospital.

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[Continued.]

29393. And you do not put them into general hospitals?
No.

26394. Do you think that is safe?

Quite safe, if you put them by themselves. Our hospital is made on the pavilion plan, so that each ward is in fact a little hospital of itself, and you can put a great many diseases under one management, and yet have them thoroughly isolated.

26395. But you would not say that it would be safe to put a number of cases of puerperal fever together, would you?

Yes; provided you adjusted the space and other things to the circumstances under which they were.

26396. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You say that in Glasgow people who take in lodgers are obliged to register the fact?

That is so.

26397. With whom do they register: where do they register?
With the sanitary inspector.

26398. Supposing that a person who employed labour had to register, to whom do you think it would be most convenient for him to make his statement?

I think that there should be no mixing of functions, and that in so far as it is for the purpose of getting at places which can be reasonably called factories, or places employing labour for hire, they should be kept under the Factory Act; but so far as regards anything that can be reasonably held to adhere to the house I think the sanitary department ought to be responsible for that.

26399. Would that be a convenient body to make an application to for a poor person?

Thoroughly. You see we have got an office which is well known to all the people there; and I think the want of that is probably one of the defects of the inspection under the Factory Act; so far as I know the Factory Act inspectors have not got a public office; I speak subject to correction, but I am not aware of it, and it would be a public convenience if they had one.

26400. You have only one office in Glasgow?

We have only one office.

26401. So that anyone starting a trade involving labour would have to go to that one office, no matter how far he was from it, and would have no nearer place?

That is so.

26402. And you cannot conceive any method which would be more convenient?

It is not beyond the power of administration to devise local conveniences.

26403. Would a police office be more convenient?

That would do perfectly well; there is a police office in each district and we use those as a means of communication in each district with our men during the day.

26404. Do you think it would be more convenient if the people had to apply to the police?

There is no doubt that the lodging-houses might equally well be under the police.

26405. The notification might be given to the police in the first instance?

And as regards factories they might be dealt with in the same way.

26406. And the factory inspectors and sanitary authorities would be able to gain that information from the police?

Perfectly; there would be no difficulty in that whatever.

26407. Lord

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[Continued.]

26407. Lord *Thring*.] Reverting to this subject of infectious diseases, will you tell me about the conveyance of persons to the hospital, what means you take to carry out that?

We have ambulances; five or six different ambulances for different diseases.

26408. And that removes, as far as you know, all risk?

Yes.

26409. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do I understand you that the factory inspector communicates with you as to the insanitary condition of workshops?

Yes; it is scarcely right to say with me personally, because the sanitary inspector is the official medium of communication with other departments in Scotland.

26410. Then the factory inspector lets the sanitary inspector know?

That is so.

26411. And the sanitary inspector would tell you?

The sanitary inspector can bring the matter to an issue without any knowledge of mine.

26412. Have you any personal knowledge as to the truth, or otherwise, of the allegations as to the insanitary state of workshops in Glasgow?

No; in so far as they are under the Factory Act, I have no personal knowledge.

26413. We should have to go to the sanitary inspector or the factory inspector for that?

The factory inspector is the person.

26414. *Chairman*.] Have you anything that you would like to say, any information that you would like to give the Committee as to the alleged sweating in Glasgow?

No. Of course it is only its sanitary relations that are of immediate interest to me, that is in so far as it involves risk to the people engaged in it, or danger to the public who use the articles made under such a system.

26415. I did not know whether perhaps with your large local knowledge and your long experience you might have anything you wish to say with regard to any further powers which you consider necessary?

No; the only thing I feel with regard to it is that we are a competent sanitary authority quite able and willing to deal with anything of that sort provided we know of it; and that is the difficulty, if the conclusion of this Committee is to devise any means by which the circumstances complained of come to our knowledge, I have no doubt whatever of our ability to deal with them efficiently.

26416. You think you have got quite sufficient power to deal with cases? Certainly.

26417. And that all you want is to have them brought to your knowledge?

That is so.

26418. You do not propose any alteration in the law as far as extending your powers goes?

No.

26419. I think you gave the Committee the total number of these ticketed houses; can you divide them into classes, three rooms, two rooms, and so on?

There are 16,000 of one room, 7,000 of two rooms, and the remainder would be about 1,000 that are three rooms; practically, they are all one room and two rooms; you can see that 2,000 cubic feet is not a very great aggregate to divide into three.

26420. But when you speak of a one-roomed house, what do you mean?

(11.)

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I mean

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I mean a holding that is taken direct from the proprietor by the person who lives in it; that is to say, he does not share it as a lodger, but pays direct to the factor or proprietor his rent.

26421. Lord *Thring*.] Supposing that there are different floors, does it make any difference; supposing that I have a holding consisting of one room on the first floor, and another room on the second floor, and another on the third floor, all the same holding?

That only arises in the case of sub-letting. We find that a person has, perhaps, taken from the landlord three or four apartments in the stair on different landings, and sub-lets them to a family at so much the night, sixpence or sevenpence the night; but we never find an occupant, in the ordinary domestic sense, who has got a distributed holding.

26422. Therefore it is not a practical question?

No.

26423. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] What is the average size of a room?
About 1,200 cubic feet.

26424. That would give you about room for four people?

Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. GEORGE SEDGWICK, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

26425. *Chairman*.] ARE you one of Her Majesty's inspectors under the Factory Act at Glasgow?

I am.

26426. How long have you held that office?

Since November 1886.

26427. Will you state how many inspectors there are in the district?

Two; there are three with the superintendent; but he, of course, does no systematic visiting, or little systematic visiting.

26428. Can you give the Committee the boundaries and population of your district, and the number of workshops and factories in it?

The district area is about five and a-half million statute acres; the population is about 1,693,984; the number of factories about 3,600; the number of workshops probably twice as many as the factories; and, in general terms, it may be said that the district extends from the Mull of Galloway to Ballachulish, and contains all the intervening counties.

26429. Do you consider two inspectors sufficient?

No.

26430. Did you hear the question I asked Dr. Russell as to some particular premises that were spoken of in evidence by Mr. M'Laughlin?

I did.

26431. Have you ever visited that place, the premises in Ingram-street?

Yes. The first visit I paid was on 26th May 1888.

26432. That was Messrs. R. S. Muir and Company?

Yes.

26433. Have you anything to say about that; did you find it in a satisfactory condition?

It was not in a satisfactory condition, but it was built upon the flat system, and in one workroom there were only adult males working. The Act does not give power to an inspector of factories to order lime-washing where only adult males are working;

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working; and I remarked to the workers upon the dirty state of the place, and regretted very much that there was not either a young person or a woman working in the place so that I could compel the employer to lime-wash it. I went into a room immediately off, opposite that one in the same lobby, and found a woman there working, but the room in which she was working was certainly in very fair condition; and I said to her, "Yes, this room is a little better; if it had been as bad as the other one I should have compelled the occupiers to have lime-washed it." There was no abstract of the Workshops Act in the place, and I sent one immediately afterwards.

26434. Have you visited it since then?

I have visited it several times since.

26435. And found it more satisfactory?

And found it more satisfactory; in fact it is in a satisfactory condition now as regards the lime-washing and the water-closet accommodation. If you would permit me I should like to say that I have prepared a paper or summary of remarks with reference to the system of sweating as carried on in Glasgow, the sanitary condition of the workshops, the hours of labour, and other little matters in connection with it. Perhaps when you ask me a question relating to these matters you would permit me to read from the statement.

26436. Certainly. There was an inquiry made some little time ago by the Scottish National Operative Tailors' Society?

Yes.

26437. And they visited a number of so called sweaters' places, and made reports?

Yes.

26438. Did you take any action after that; any special action?

The first intimation that I had was an article in the "Lancet," that was sent to me; it was sent to me by my superintendent, Mr. Henderson, who desired to know whether I recognised any of the places therein mentioned. I think there were eight places specially mentioned, and I recognised six of them; five or six.

26439. Was the report of this society fairly accurate, do you think?

No doubt there was some truth contained in it; but at the same time, if I may give my impression, I think the writer of the article had a fertile imagination.

26440. As to the general sanitary condition of these workshops and factories that come under your notice, what have you to say?

In work-rooms apart from dwelling-houses, the sanitary conditions are usually satisfactory. The water-closet accommodation could, in many cases, be improved with benefit to the workers, especially in the direction of providing water-closets to be used by females only. The regulations of the Factory and Workshop Act as to lime-washing are fairly well kept; indeed in this class of work-rooms the conditions are, on the whole, satisfactory. In dwelling-houses partially or wholly used as workrooms the state of matters, however, is not so satisfactory. In many cases the houses are old and the construction faulty. This is specially to be noted in dwelling-houses used as workrooms near the centre of the city. Blocks of buildings originally intended to be used solely as dwelling-houses in which the water-closet accommodation for families was somewhat limited and primitive, are now used as workrooms with from six to 15, and even 20 workers in each room, and still there has been little, and too often, no increase in the water-closet accommodation. Apart from the scanty accommodation afforded, the conditions as to cleanliness, and the position of the water-closets make it almost impossible for a female to visit them without loss of self-respect. In some cases the water-closets are situated on the flat outside the workrooms. These water-closets may be open to the use either of the tenants of the particular flat on which they are situated, if there is a water-closet on each flat, or to the whole of the tenants in the building if there be only one

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water-closet for the tenement. In other cases they are situated in out-houses separate from the building. The water-closets being thus common to the use of the whole of the tenants and their workpeople, they have to be used by both men and women. On a flat there may be a workroom for women and a workshop for men, and the water-closet is common to the use of all. Those outside of the building are from their more public situation even more inconvenient and unfit for women than those on the stair. Even where the water-closets are in the inside of the premises, from their sub-division as originally formed it sometimes happens that one portion has a water-closet and another is left without any accommodation of this kind. A three or four roomed-house with a water-closet within it is sub-divided and the water-closet goes with one portion and the other portion is not so provided for. Here there is really no provision for the workers, for the water-closets being inside the houses, as originally built, no water-closets of the kind before-mentioned, as on the stair or in an outhouse, exist. In such circumstances the methods resorted to can be better imagined than described. The entrance, passages, &c., leading to the work-rooms, should also be regularly lime-washed by the owners or agents of the property. At present this is a difficult matter to enforce, as owing to the system of building in flats, the stair entrance common to the whole of the tenants, seems to be the particular responsibility of none, so far as cleansing and lime-washing are concerned. An inspector of factories may direct the lime-washing of an interior where children, young persons, or women are employed; but is powerless to enforce the same regulations in relation to the entrance or passage by which admission is gained to the work-rooms. It is in these dwelling-house work-rooms where the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act can be systematically evaded, and there is considerable difficulty in finding them out. No penalty attaches to the occupier who neglects or fails to notify that he intends to occupy as a workshop. Nor is there any outward or visible indication of the room being so occupied; consequently it is possible for a workshop to exist where a large number of children, young persons, or women are employed, and the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act continually contravened. Yet the existence of such workshop may be quite unknown to the inspector of factories. In many cases tailors' workshops are in the basement under the retail shop; gas is burnt throughout the day, ventilation is defective, and the atmosphere breathed by the workers, more or less impure, and therefore injurious to health. Other workshops are situated immediately under the roofs of lofty buildings. Such places are, as a rule, badly ventilated and draughty during the day. At night the heat arising from the stoves used for heating the pressing-irons, and the gas, makes it difficult for any person newly entering the workshop to breathe. Entrance to these workshops is gained by the ascent of a series of stone steps, or spiral stairs, 80 or 90 in number from the ground level. These unfavourable conditions are not only the source of danger to the health of the workers directly engaged, but also to the general public, amongst whom the garments made under such conditions are distributed when sold.

26441. I do not understand what the stairs have to do with it?

The system of building is building on flats, and it is just possible that on a flat the rooms may be divided and sub-divided till you get five or six workshops each occupied by a separate tenant, and in that case the inspector of factories has the power to order the lime-washing of the interior of the rooms; but no matter how filthy or how dirty the staircase or the entrance to the workshop may be we have no power. Dr. Russell has further informed me to-day that he does not think they have any power where workshops alone exist. Rooms are also used as workshops during the day, and for sleeping places at night. I once saw a small room being used as a workroom by five adult females, who, in order to obtain light, were huddled together round a small window (the only window in the room). One of the females was seated on the side of the bed, and another was sitting right in the bed; the bed being afterwards used during the night for sleeping purposes. The articles of wearing apparel upon which

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which the females were then working were lying about the room, and upon the bed.

26442. Do you know what size that room would be?

It would probably be 12 feet by 9 by 9.

26443. Is it the case that in consequence of protected hands being taken into a shop, or discharged from a workroom, such a workroom might be at one period under the factory inspector and at another period under the sanitary authority?

It is so.

26444. And that neither the sanitary authority nor the inspector have any means of finding out whether these hands are so taken or discharged?

No means whatever of knowing, except by visiting.

26445. So that if you, for instance, want to visit a place to-day, and if you have a right to visit it to-day, a week hence you might be told you had no right to come in?

Exactly.

26446. I suppose you and the sanitary authorities co-operate with each other?

As far as possible.

26447. If they have any complaint to make, they inform you of it?

The case to which I have alluded, in which I found the five persons was, in the first instance, given to me through the medical officer of health.

26448. It would be possible. I should imagine, for anyone who wished to do so, to make it very difficult for any inspection to be exercised over these places at all, by placing them, at one time, within the jurisdiction of the factory inspector; and, at another time, within the jurisdiction of the sanitary authority; and they would be both puzzled to know who had authority in the matter?

That is, I believe, frequently done; and, then, another way they have of contravening the Act is, by removing, as soon as the inspector finds them out and supplies them with an abstract; and, on his visiting them, perhaps six weeks or two months, afterwards, to see whether the Act has been properly kept, he finds the shop vacant altogether.

26449. Do you know anything of the conditions of the clothing trade in Glasgow?

You mean the wholesale clothing trade?

26450. Yes; do you know if middlemen exist largely in it, or if they exist at all in it?

I have here, in my statement, the whole system of making the clothes and the prices paid to the workers by the sweater or middleman by the warehouseman.

26451. You have written it out yourself?

Yes, from my own observations and inquiry.

26452. If it is more convenient to you to give your evidence in that way will you read it?

The system of giving out work from the warehouses to be made under the above system, the middleman, or sweating system, exists in what are known as home trades, viz.: the making up of articles of wearing apparel, such as men's and boy's clothing, shirts, slops, &c., ladies' mantles, &c. In the wholesale clothing trade the system most extensively prevails. The middleman, or employer, is the occupier of a workroom, or dwelling-house, in which, one or more apartments are used as workrooms. He obtains the work from the warehouse in bundles. When given to him it is cut out and ready for being made up. It is taken to the workroom, where, by a most elaborate system of sub-division of labour, it is made up into garments. Females

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are generally employed, male labour being but little used. The bundles are opened, the different parts of the intended garments are sorted out; these are then passed to the basters, or fitters, from them passed on to the several machinists, thence to the sewers, until every seam required is completed. The garments are now ready for the final pressing-off, after which they are put again into bundles, and are then ready for the warehouse. The basters, who are generally females, are engaged at set wages, which range from 5 s. to 14 s. per week. In some cases a male fitter (who is an expert worker) would also be employed, receiving, as wages, from 6 s. to 9 s. per day. The machinists, male and female, are paid fixed wages, as a rule. The former at rates ranging from 5 s. to 6 s. 6 d. per day, the latter from 10 s. to 18 s. per week. It must be understood that these rates only refer to competent and expert workers. Learners and improvers are employed at rates very much below these. What are called sewing women or tailoresses, are paid from 5 s. to 14 s. per week. Button-hole workers are paid per dozen holes, prices ranging from 3 d. to 5 d. per dozen holes, according to the quality of the garments. A quick worker may earn from 14 s. to 18 s. per week. The pressing, usually the work of males, is paid at so much per garment, the prices varying according to the class and quality of the garments, and at a busy season good wages can be earned. In some cases an overlooker of the machinists is employed. His duty is to supervise and arrange their work. He is paid by the middleman, and his wages depend upon the number of garments he can get machined during the week. His work will be better understood from the following details. The work comes into his hands from the basters. The machining is done in different parts, one machinist doing the outside seam of a garment, the other an inside seam; one again does the collar of a coat, and another the pockets, and so on. The different machinists are kept continuously at their particular portion of the garment. The consequent familiarity with the work enables them to get it out of their hands very rapidly. The overlooker arranges the material for them, and by constantly keeping himself in touch with their progress he is enabled to keep them at work without intermission. Passing from machine to machine he sees how the work is going on, and by keeping each well supplied with material he secures that no time is lost by the machinists, and being paid by the number of the garments he can pass through the machinists' hands, he is not likely to lose any time himself. By this system of direct supervision continuous working at the highest speed possible is maintained throughout the whole day, any stoppage or relaxation of work being quickly detected by the overlooker. Consequent upon this sub-division of labour, the supervision referred to and the quality of the garments made, a large quantity of work can be turned out. All rent, fire, gas, thread, gimp, and other furnishings are found by the employer or middleman. Trousers and vests are now mostly made by the warehousemen in factories which they occupy, and over which they have control. The prices, as follow, are received by the middleman from the warehouses for making the respective garments; black worsted suits, each 3 s. 9 d. to 4 s. 6 d.

26453. Are you talking of vests and trousers now?

No; I have said that the trousers and vests are mostly made in large factories by the warehousemen themselves.

26454. Then you went on to say that you were going to give the prices paid to middlemen for making these garments; you refer to coats now?

The whole suit is made for that price. Black worsted suits, each 3 s. 9 d. to 4 s. 6 d.; black worsted jackets, each 1 s. 9 d. to 2 s. 6 d.; black worsted vests, each 10 d. to 1 s.; black worsted trousers, per pair 9 d. to 1 s.; tweed suits, each 2 s. 7 d. to 5 s.; tweed jackets, each 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s.; tweed vests, each 7 d. to 9 d.; tweed trousers, per pair, 9 d. to 1 s. That is the whole, relating solely to the wholesale tailoring department. I have other similar details as to making in reference to shirts. Of course there are middlemen employed in shirt-making, but it is very limited indeed.

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26455. We will confine ourselves to the tailoring trade. When you speak of these middlemen, what kind of places do they work in generally?

When the workroom is apart from the dwelling-house, the sanitary and other conditions are, generally speaking, very fair; when combined with the dwelling-house such a favourable report cannot be given.

26456. Do you know whether much work is carried on in places that do not come under your supervision at all?

Not in the wholesale clothing trade; it has to be done by a sub-division of labour on purpose to be got through quickly, so that one hand is not able to do it.

26457. It is not done in the people's own homes?

It is not done in the people's own homes, and if it is done at all, they have to employ workers, and then they come under our jurisdiction at once.

26458. Do you know whether these middlemen are principally or largely Jews?

Mainly Jews.

26459. Native-born Jews or foreign Jews?

I have not inquired into that.

26460. Out of the wages you have given us as being earned by the workmen, I understand that there are no deductions of any kind?

No deductions whatever.

26461. Now, as to these learners who get paid very low wages, are they generally kept on long enough to learn the trade thoroughly in one place?

I have not been able to interview more than one or two of the learners, and the information I obtained was not satisfactory, because it varied, there was nothing general borne out; but what I did find was that learners, as a rule, do not pay; that is to say, as soon as a girl becomes really useful, she wants more money than the instructor will pay her; then she leaves the instructor and goes to another middleman, stating that she is a competent hand, and gets the wages she requires.

26462. And the other takes on another learner?

Yes; the other takes on another learner.

26463. Do you know whether the method of carrying on the trade has changed at all lately; have any firms made arrangements for doing work on their own premises instead of giving it out to out-workers?

Yes. Mann, Byars & Co., have done so, and another firm also; and I am told (but I have no proof of it except the report of the workers themselves) that a large amount of the work formerly done in Glasgow has now been removed to factories in Leeds, and with the work, of course a great number of the workers.

26464. Are men only employed in many of the workshops, or is it the general rule to employ men and women?

The preponderance is largely in the employment of females. It would not be necessary for more than three men to be working where perhaps there would be 12 or 15 females.

26465. I should gather from you that you complain of the same thing as Dr. Russell; that you complain not of having insufficient powers under the Act of Parliament, but of the difficulty of finding out whether the Act is carried into effect or not?

There is always a difficulty in finding them out, because whereas by the terms of the Factory Act they are bound to notify the fact within one month if they occupy a factory, which enables the inspector to put them upon the register of factories, in the case of the work-room, there not being any penalty, we simply have to find them out as best we can.

26466. And they are situated in all kinds of out of the way places?

It seems to me that, especially in the case of the tailors, they use the two extremes,

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extremes, either putting them underneath the workshop, in the basement, or at the top of a very high building, I suppose on account of the dearness of the rent.

26467. Would you then be in favour of compulsory registration, or anything of that kind?

I have drawn up a memorandum here in reference to what I think would be the means of assisting the inspection very much. First, that premises to be used as workrooms, especially where articles of wearing apparel are made, should be examined by an inspector of factories, and certified by him as a fit and proper place before being so used. All existing workshops, which, upon inspection, should be found deficient in sanitary or other requirements, should be closed after a date to be decided upon. Second, that the provisions of Section 75 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, be extended to workshops; that is the section by which they are bound to notify within one month of their commencing to occupy the workshop. Third, that the cubic feet space, and the number of people a workshop is limited to contain during the day and night should be definitely fixed by law, and posted up in the workshop, so as to be easily seen by the inspector and the persons employed. I may say here that the cubic feet is not a part of the Act, and it may possibly be that if we take a case of over-crowding into a Scotch court before a Scotch sheriff, as the cubic feet space is defined in a note in the Act, and not in the Act itself, it may be thrown out. Frequently the people have no knowledge whatever of the way of getting the cubic space of the room, and they urge that as a reason for, and an extenuation of not keeping the definition of the Act; but if, as Dr. Russell has said, we had on a tablet put at the entrance to the room, "This room contains so many cubic feet, and is capable of containing so many people;" then there could be no excuse whatever on the part of the occupier that he did not know that he was breaking the law, and the workers themselves could see whether the law was being broken in that direction.

26468. That would be a sort of extension of this ticketing system?

Yes. Fourth,—That all workshops be lime-washed once, at least, within every 14 months, as at present fixed by the Act in the case of factories where children, young persons, and women are employed. At present, in such a case as that of one of the workshops at Muir's, where men only are employed, though it may be in a dirty condition, we have no power whatever to compel the lime-washing. All workshops should, in my opinion, be subject to be lime-washed at least once within every 14 months. Fifth,—That the duty of lime-washing the passages, staircases, &c., leading to workshops should be placed on the owners of the property. My reason for that is because we have such a very large number of what are called flats, and perhaps in one flat opened by a common stair, you would get from eight to 10, even as high as 20, tenants. We could not very well summon 20 tenants, but it is likely that the whole building would belong to one person in the shape of an owner or his agent, and I think that as the occupier is forced to keep the interior of the workshop clean, the duty of lime-washing the passage should be thrown upon the owner of the property, so that we should find some one really responsible. Sixth,—That occupiers should be compelled to provide proper water-closet accommodation in proportion to the number of people employed by them, giving, as far as possible, separate accommodation for each sex. Seventh,—That the provisions of the Act as to overtime should read 9 o'clock instead of 10 o'clock, as at present. Eighth,—That a register of the overtime worked should be kept constantly affixed in every workshop so as to be easily read by the inspector and the persons employed. At present the occupier has to make application for a special exception, which he fills up and affixes in the workshop, and he has a book containing 48 circulars similar to that one (*producing a circular*) which he is supposed to send away every time he works beyond the usual hours of work; but the workers themselves have no means of knowing whether the notice has been sent or otherwise, and having my suspicions that one very large firm were using more than they had any right to do in this direction, I retained for 12 consecutive months the whole

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whole of the forms sent in by them, and I then found that the firm in question had worked 50 days overtime between March 12th 1888 and October 24th 1888, and they were still working overtime in October. So that whilst the sending of that form is an intimation that overtime is being worked still, it is no indication as far as the workers themselves are concerned, they have no means of knowing; and my opinion is that if we had a register in the workshop, which the occupier should be bound to fill up the morning after the overtime is worked, then if that register was not properly filled up, the workers themselves would give us the necessary information at once, because it would be open to them to see that the entry had not been made, and that the Act was being contravened.

26469. Has this certificate to be sent to you every time they work overtime?

The conditions of the Factory Act give power in certain trades to work overtime 48 times a year, but the note bears no number, and there is little or no means of tracing when that particular twelvemonth begins, because it is in any consecutive 12 months, and there is no method by which you can trace when the particular 12 months commenced.

26470. You mean that they may exceed their privileges?

I mean that if they were to lose the book and get a new one we could not tell that they had lost the old one.

26471. And you think also that this certificate should be filled up in the presence of the workmen, or in some such way that they could know?

No. I and my colleague have already sent in the form to Mr. Oram, in which we suggest how it should be done; that there should be 48 spaces on the form, which should be hung up in the workshop, and the date of the first time that overtime was worked should be entered; and following that there should be the name of the responsible agent or occupier, and then the time so worked, say from 8 until 10; and it should follow that until the whole of the 48 times were exhausted. The first date upon the paper would, of course, be the first date of any twelve consecutive months. Then, ninth, that in factories and workshops where children, young persons, and women are employed, it should be the duty of the occupier to make provision in case of fire (or any other cause which may create a danger to the workers by reason of a panic) so that all employed upon the premises should be able to gain the street immediately. In consequence of the system of building in flats in a case where a large number of females and young persons were working immediately under the roof of a seven storeyed building, a soft goods warehouse, of say the third storey took fire, with the narrow staircase provided, it would be certain almost that some of the workers, if not killed outright, would sustain serious bodily injuries, or they would be suffocated before help could be extended to them.

26472. You spoke just now, and you have spoken several times, of workshops; what do you mean, exactly, by a "workshop"?

I take the present definition fixed by the Act.

26473. You said that certain provisions in the Act ought to be, in your opinion, extended to workshops?

Yes; all workshops.

26474. What do you mean by "all" workshops?

I mean where there are men employed alone, where there are men and women employed, where there are men, women, and young persons employed, or men, women, and young persons and children employed; one or all of them, or any of them. I would have all those places treated as workshops.

26475. Would you include, as workshops, places where only members of a family work?

No.

26476. Hired labour you would consider essential to constitute it a workshop?

Yes; hired labour would be, practically, the line of distinction.

(11.)

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26477. You

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26477. You spoke of this so-called sweating existing in the shirt trade; does it exist, in your opinion, in any other trades in Glasgow?

Very slightly in the mantle trade, but the conditions under which the workers are in that trade are so favourable that there is not much to complain of.

26478. In any case, I understand from you, that it is more noticeable in the tailoring trade than any other?

Yes.

26479. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] With regard to making provision against fire, would not that in many cases involve very considerable difficulty?

No doubt it would mean that in many cases the old and faultily constructed dwelling-places would have to be re-constructed.

26480. Practically, almost pulled down?

I do not know that they would have to be pulled down, but no doubt extensive alterations would have in some cases to be made, because I have in my mind at present, cases where they have some six or eight females working, and they have to ascend by an ordinary step ladder, with a rope to pull themselves up with, and the superintendent of the Glasgow Fire Brigade called my attention to that and similar cases, in which, in his opinion (and he has a double qualification, because he has been an inspector of factories) something ought to be done.

26481. Are these large flats constructed generally with only one staircase?

Generally, with only one staircase; they may at times have a smaller one; but I think I may say that one principal staircase is the rule.

26482. It would be difficult, would it not, to alter those and put two staircases without completely re-constructing the building?

I see no reason why they should not have a winding stair at the back, the same as they do in some of the dwellings, for the purpose of escape.

26483. That would not involve very large re-construction?

It would only involve taking up a space outside the work-rooms.

26484. Lord *Monkswell*.] When persons are taken on to work in private houses you say notification is not necessary; under those circumstances may they not work under insanitary conditions without your knowing anything about it?

No doubt a large amount of work does take place under insanitary conditions. In a large factory where the factory hours have been usually kept from six to six, I have seen women and young persons coming in with work which has been taken home; they have worked at home till 12 and 2 o'clock in the night, and taken it back the next morning. That is an evasion of the Act.

26485. Then you agree with the evidence given on behalf of the men that it is not an uncommon practice for women to take home work?

I have not seen it in Glasgow, but I have seen it in another town. Of course the makers of shirts that Mr. Muir's partner spoke about take the work home; I should have spoken about that in speaking of the shirt-making; they take the work home, and they do it in the meantime between the meals, and they very often, of course, work very late.

26486. Then do I understand that in Glasgow, you think work goes on under insanitary conditions to which your attention is not called?

Only in the direction of the shirt and slop making perhaps, in which they take the work home.

26487. You do not think, as a matter of fact, that your jurisdiction is ousted in any way by clandestine working in private houses?

No; I am quite of opinion with Mr. Pinto that it is not; the very fact of the sub-division of labour prevents it from being a paying thing to the employer.

26488. But you say workshops are sometimes suddenly opened on short notice?

Yes;

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Yes ; I have sent them an abstract, and called a short time afterwards, and found no trace of the people left at all.

26489. May it not be the case then that work under insanitary conditions goes on even in Glasgow in that way : that under stress of necessity a workshop will be opened with very short notice in a private house, and you may not know anything at all about it, and in that house work under insanitary conditions may go on ?

Exactly.

26490. But you do not know whether that prevails to any great extent ; you think not ?

My only reason for thinking so is that the cases that have come to my knowledge have been very rare.

26491. What is there to oblige a manufacturer to serve notices of overtime ; how can you check them ?

The exception paper itself states that the form shall be sent the morning after the overtime has been worked.

26492. How do you know that overtime has been worked ?

The only notification is when I have them sent me from the Home Office to go through them. If the employer forgets to send them we cannot tell ; there is no proof whatever. In one case of a large shirt manufactory I caught them working in the night, and found upon asking for the overtime-book that they had worked at night previously, and had made no entry in it at all.

26493. Do you think that is a common practice to make no entry ?

I should not like to say it is a common practice, because I only found out one case.

26494. You have no sufficient means of checking the notices ?

There is no sufficient means of checking ; not such a check, at all events, as would be given by the fact of the register being hung up in these work-rooms. There is a means of checking, as you could see in the case I stated in which I detected that an evasion of the Act was taking place.

26495. It was because the papers were sent in to you that you checked them in that case, but if they had not been sent in to you you would not have been any the wiser ?

Except that the workers themselves not knowing sometimes the extent to which they have been overworked, complain that they have been overworked ; then we make a surprise visit, and ask for the production of the overtime-book ; and in other cases when we visit we ask to see the overtime-book, and go to three or four persons and compare the dates which they mention with the overtime-book.

26496. How often do you do that ?

In every case of visiting a workshop where the exception is used of working overtime.

26497. And you have only once discovered a case in which the overtime was not returned ?

Twice ; once when I caught them working, and once when I had my suspicions in consequence of seeing such a large number of returns coming in.

26498. But the large numbers simply showed that they had exceeded their limits. I asked how often you found that they had not filled in the proper return ; the employer you referred to had sent in the proper return, but the return showed that he had exceeded his limits ; the return he sent in showed that he had worked more times than he ought to have done ?

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[Continued.]

And to that extent they contravened the Act on both occasions; but I believe that in a third case we detected it in the same way; the men having complained of overtime we went and found that the overtime had been worked, and upon looking at the overtime-book we found no entry of the overtime having been worked.

26499. Then in two instances you have found that no entry has been sent in when it ought to have been, and in the third case that the man had worked more overtime than he had a right to do?

Those are the most direct cases; but we have found the most peculiar notions with regard to this. A large print-mill owner had the idea that each woman in the mill was entitled to work overtime 48 times, and they were ringing the changes with each woman; but that really means any part of the factory. In a large biscuit work they thought that if they did not work the full two hours they had no right to send in the overtime form; but the three cases were direct contraventions, and no doubt there are large numbers of them.

26500. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You mentioned that for the purpose of discovering workshops; workshops at the top of buildings are very objectionable?

That is so. There is nothing to indicate a workshop being there at all. In fact, I have gone up to a place and looked round one of the places mentioned by Mr. M'Laughlin. I was on the very landing, and making inquiries as to whether there were any workshops, and was told "No." There was no indication at all of such a place; and in block visiting, for the purpose of finding out workshops, I was astonished to see the holes and corners in which some people were working, and in which it would be utterly impossible with a staff of two men covering the district I have before named, to attempt to find them out.

26501. But beyond the difficulty of discovering the workshops, is there any other objection to workshops on the top of buildings?

None, except that, from the construction of the buildings, they are unhealthy; that is to say, the only means of ventilation is opening a fan-light or sky-light; and, in such cases, of course the air or wind comes right down upon the workers, and the men working in these lofty places complain that they get cold very rapidly. Of course one part of the day it is cold and draughty, and the other part of the day it is hot.

26502. Is that a fault of construction or a fault that could be remedied?

I do not know that it could be remedied except by altering the construction of the workrooms.

26503. I ask for this reason, that I have seen drawings of model buildings, many of which have been constructed with a large workshop, filling up the whole of the upper floor, or the roof, and I wanted to know whether, from your experience, that was a thing which, in itself, was objectionable?

I should not be at all particular about the shape of the rooms if there was the cubic space necessary for the workers and anything like adequate ventilation.

26504. That is what I wanted to get at, whether it only was that these particular workshops were so faultily constructed that they were insanitary?

They were never intended for workshops at all. With regard to this one mentioned by Mr. M'Laughlin (*describing it*), there is only one place, right in the centre, where you can stand upright; it was 13 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches by 6 feet.

26505. *Chairman*.] Did I understand you to say just now, that although, in your opinion, this work is not taken home in Glasgow it is in other places?

Yes, I have seen it frequently.

26506. You

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[*Continued.*]

2650⁶. You said it was not done in Glasgow because the subdivision of labour makes it impossible or unnecessary?

Makes it unprofitable.

2650⁷. Do you mean that work is carried on by a better system, or at all events, by a more minute system of subdivision, in Glasgow than in other towns?

I think so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next,
at Twelve o'clock.

Die Jovis, 9^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of DERBY.

Earl BROWNLOW.

Viscount GORDON (*Earl of Aberdeen*).

Lord CLINTON.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord ROTHSCHILD.

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord THRING.

Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. NEIL M'LEAN, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

26508. *Chairman.*] ARE you the Secretary to the Scottish National Operative Tailors' Protection Society?

I have been, but I have lately ceased to be so; in the first week in March I ceased to be Secretary.

26509. How long did you hold that position?

I have held it for four years, the last period, and a previous period for two years.

26510. Have you held any other offices in connection with trade societies?

I have been for eight years Secretary to the Edinburgh Trades' Council, which comprises about 25 different trades. I have also ceased to hold that office.

26511. Lately?

Two years ago I ceased to be Secretary to the Trades' Council.

26512. What is your own trade?

A tailor.

26513. Have you a thorough practical knowledge of tailoring in its various branches?

Yes; I am a thorough practical tailor.

26514. As regards Edinburgh, do you think that the practices and circumstances that are generally described as sweating in connection with your trade exist in Edinburgh?

They do, although not to a very large extent.

26515. Did they exist to a greater extent formerly than now?

They have existed occasionally to a much greater extent than they do at present.

26516. How do you account for its present decrease?

If you will allow me to make a statement, I will state briefly what I have to say, and then you might cross-question me upon what I do say; perhaps in a narrative form I might be able to convey more truly to your Lordships what is the real state of matters.

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Mr. McLEAN.

[Continued]

26517. Yes?

In the first place, I may state that there is practically no such thing as the manufacturing of ready-made garments in Edinburgh; there is to a small extent, but practically no such thing exists to any extent, so that the very lowest class of sweating does not affect us directly. How we feel the system affecting us most seriously is that when contracts, such as contracts for municipal or volunteer uniforms, or such large orders as those are to be contracted for, the evils of the system at once affect us, and if there is any movement in connection with our trade in favour of ameliorating the condition of the workers, the system at once detrimentally affects us. For instance, I may state that in 1866 (because my memory goes that far back, there was a serious dispute in connection with our trade, and at that time there was a very large immigration of foreign labour both from Germany and from London, and it took some time to weed that out, although, with the settlement of the dispute, it gradually, as it were, disappeared. In 1873 a much more extended and serious dispute took place, and at that time very large quantities of our work were sent to be made in London under the sweating system, and also large numbers of people were transported from London to Edinburgh to do the work, and these were largely foreigners.

26518. What do you mean by "foreigners"?

Germans and Polish, as a rule.

26519. I asked the question because just now you spoke of Londoners as foreigners?

When I use the word "foreigners," I mean people that do not belong to this country, although we have English Jews as well as foreign Jews. For some considerable time after the settlement of that dispute there were considerable numbers of these people there, and when the dispute was settled, of course the better class of workmen, the practical workmen, got into their own work, and then these people fell back upon the sweating system. Previously some of them were employed in the workshops, and some of them in their own homes, the employers in many cases providing the houses and guaranteeing the rent; and this came out when actions for breach of contract came to be tried before the courts; it was proved that the employers were guarantee for the rent of the houses that were occupied by the people who were working for them.

26520. What do you understand in Edinburgh, what do you yourself understand by the sweating system?

We have a much closer definition of the sweating system in Scotland than exists in London. We reckon that every man is a sweater who does not work upon the premises of the employer; when once he goes outside, we reckon that he sweats himself, in the first place, to the extent of shop rent, coal, and gas. To that extent he sweats himself even though he is paid the same wage for working outside as the men are paid who are employed inside. But we know as a matter of fact, that it very rarely occurs that they are paid the same price; they are paid a much lower price. And it also is within our knowledge that immediately they go home to work, they at once begin to employ other people and sweat them in order to get a profit out of their labour. The fact of its being made at a reduced price is within our knowledge, from this circumstance, that often work is put up to the regular workshop with a much reduced price put upon it in the slack season, and the men are told, "If you do not make it we will send it out." Generally a reduction of from 25 to 20 per cent. upon the regular price is marked as the price of this job, and the men are told, "If you do not make it we will send it out," and out it goes. I may state (because I want to be perfectly fair) that the system has very much decreased, that there are only four or five firms of any importance in Edinburgh who resort to the system at present.

26521. By "the system" there you mean putting work out?

Sending work out to be made at reduced rates; and in fact there are only two firms resorting to that which we reckon of much importance. There is one firm recently started who are sending their work out, but we do not know what

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Mr. McLEAN.

[Continued.]

what it may develop into; but there are two large firms, very important firms, who patronize the system to a very great extent. One of these firms do a considerable amount of contract work, municipal contracts for police clothing and such like. They have of recent years also done the work for the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners, and they have made the uniforms for the new corps of Submarine Miners or Mining Engineers, a new corps that has recently started. We have been able, through bringing pressure upon the municipality, to secure that the municipal contract shall be made upon the employer's premises, and that no sub-contracting shall be allowed; but the effect, in place of bettering our position as workmen, has been detrimental to it, inasmuch as when the employer was found fault with for trying to evade the conditions of his contract, he very plainly told the men that he would send all his private trade out; that he would adhere to the terms of his contract by getting his contract work made inside, but that he would send his private work outside; so that in place of the restriction upon the contract improving our position, it proved rather detrimental to it. With regard to the lighthouse clothing, I believe the majority of it was made outside, though part of it was made on the premises. Then with regard to the uniforms of the Submarine Miners, all the tunics were sweated, that is, the most important part of the uniform was sweated at a very much lower price than would be paid to the men inside.

26522. What do you mean by "the regular price," of which you spoke just now?

When a contract like that is commenced, there is a price agreed upon between the men and the employer; and the very first thing that we know is, that some of these people who work out come and offer to make it for considerably less, in order to get it out.

26523. Is there any regular log or statement of prices in Edinburgh?

No; there is no regular log for such contracts; there is a regular log for private clothing, but no regular log for contract clothing, in Edinburgh.

26524. In fact the regular log does not apply to such contracts?

It does not apply to such contracts.

26525. How is that?

Because they say it is contract work, and must be made very much cheaper; in fact it is made so much cheaper that a man can scarcely, even with extremely hard work, get anything like a living out of it.

26526. How do you account for what you describe as sweating being less now in Edinburgh than it used to be?

So far as order clothing is concerned, what we call order clothing, the better class of bespoke shops find that it does not suit them as well; they find that they cannot get the same class of men to do the work outside that they can get inside, and it is not so convenient for fitting on and so forth, because they have to send messengers running to and fro. That, with the pressure of our association, and the pressure of public opinion, has tended very much to lessen the practice in regard to the ordinary order, or bespoke clothing.

26527. You spoke of some firms putting their work out; do you mean by that, that they put it out to be made by the workmen in their own homes, or that they sub-contract it to middlemen?

It is made by workers in their own homes.

26528. You object to that, because these people working in their own homes take the work cheaper than the regular log or statement prices of the trade?

We object to it from that point of view; and we object to it as citizens, on the ground that it is dangerous to the public.

26529. Why?

Because of the risk of contagion being spread by living rooms and bed-rooms being used as ordinary work-rooms where woollen garments are made.

26530. Is there any sub-contracting; does it happen that one of these large firms you spoke of, for instance, might put out an order to some master tailor

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[Continued.]

or some person who would contract to make the goods at such a price, and would then put a part of that order, or the whole of it, out to somebody else to make it at a smaller price?

That has been done; but at the present moment I do not think it exists in Edinburgh. Of course I am speaking of Edinburgh entirely.

26531. Has there been any great alteration in prices lately within your recollection?

The standing rate of wages in the tailoring trade in Edinburgh has not varied for this last 14 or 15 years.

26532. Do you admit these outworkers into your society?
We do not.

26533. How many does your society number in Edinburgh?
In Edinburgh alone it runs from 600 to 700 members.

26534. Have you any idea what the total number of persons, male and female, engaged in the trade in Edinburgh is?

Some years ago a census was taken, and we found that there were something like 1,000 men in the busy season, and from 200 to 300 women who got their living by tailoring in Edinburgh.

26535. I understand you that you succeed in getting a clause put into the contracts for municipal clothing, that the work was all to be done on the premises?

Yes; and that no sub-contracting should be allowed.

26536. But you told me just now that at present there was no sub-contracting in Edinburgh?

Yes, but there was at one time.

26537. And you were afraid that it might occur again?

That it might occur again. The police clothing, or the greater part of it, was in fact contracted at one time.

26538. But the introduction of that clause which you thought would benefit you has had rather the opposite effect, you have told us?

It has had rather the opposite effect, this last season at any rate; that was the first season it was in operation.

26539. How would you propose to get over that difficulty?

Well, I know of no way of getting over it except the absolute prohibition of the making of the work in living rooms or bed-rooms. That is my solution of the difficulty; the absolute prohibition of any work specially connected with tailoring (woollen garments being more likely than others to convey contagion) being allowed to be made in living rooms or bed-rooms.

26540. But would you object to their being made by these outworkers in rooms that were in a good sanitary condition?

As a tailor I would; as a citizen I would not.

26541. Do the men prefer, as a rule, do you think, working outside to working on the employers' premises?

It is almost the invariable custom that the men in Scotland work in shops; those who are English, Irish, or Scotch, work in shops, and it is only those who are getting down in the social scale who go to work at home at all. The foreigner, from the nature of his bringing up, has a slightly opposite opinion, because on the continent the system of working at home largely exists.

26542. Are there many females in Edinburgh employed in the trade?

From 200 to 300; I told your Lordship we calculated some few years ago when the census was taken, and I believe that it is about the same number at present.

26543. Have you any objection to that?

No, except that they are paid at a less rate; as a rule, we do not object to their getting their living by the trade.

26544. Is

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[Continued.]

26544. Is there any system of apprenticeship?

There is a system, but our ranks are largely recruited from the provinces, from smaller towns and country districts, and there is no legal apprenticeship so to speak; they are not bound in any way, as a rule, and whenever they think that they are capable of becoming journeymen tailors they try to be so.

26545. Is it the custom to take in learners?

To a very small extent, although young men coming from the country sometimes have to do it, but it is to a very small extent.

26546. I was rather thinking of females?

There is such a thing, but it does not exist to a very great extent.

26547. Is the work carried on in much the same way now that it was formerly in your recollection, or is it more sub-divided?

Practically the same; in order trade there is hardly such a thing as the sub-division of labour.

26548. Then I should gather from what you have said, that what you describe as sweating does not obtain to a very great extent in Edinburgh?

It does not obtain to a very great extent, because, there being no manufacturing done, that class of sweating does not exist; but there is a class of sweating that I would wish to call particular attention to; the two firms which I have already indicated, without mentioning them, are both large producers of clerical and legal vestments, that is gowns for the clergy and gowns for the legal profession; very few, or almost none, of these are made upon the premises.

26549. Where are they made?

That is very difficult to ascertain; your Lordship must understand that the picket clause prevents us persistently following people to their homes to find out where they live, or who they work for, and we must be very careful; and, on the other hand, the men who are in the employ of these firms must be very careful in giving information, otherwise they will at once be discharged; they see the people coming and going to and from the cutting-room, where the work is delivered, the same as they come and go to it; they see them delivering their work, and they know that they do not work upon the premises; but it is a very difficult matter to follow them to their homes unless one is prepared to be made a martyr of for it.

26550. Are these goods cut out on the premises, and then sent out to be made up?

They are cut out on the premises as a rule.

26551. But do you object to that on the same grounds as before?

On the same grounds as before.

26552. On sanitary grounds?

On sanitary grounds largely, because we have no knowledge where these garments are made, and there is a danger to us in that. Occasionally these garments which are made outside are sent home to the customer and come back to be altered, and they are frequently altered upon the premises, and we have known cases of fever being conveyed to the workmen that we could not trace to any other source; and we have a provision in our laws, as a trade society, to which I would wish to direct your Lordships' attention, which protects both the public and our fellow workmen, to the effect that any man in whose family, or if he is a lodger in the house where he is lodging, contagious or epidemic disease exists, leaving his work, is paid at the same rate exactly as if he left his work from any other cause, namely, we pay him 14 s. a week, as a protection to ourselves and to the customers of our employers.

26553. Lord Basing.] You seem to think it a sort of grievance that you could not tell, and did not know, where these clergymen's and baristers' robes were made?

Certainly.

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[*Continued.*]

26554. Why is it a grievance to you ; is it any hardship to you ?

I have already indicated one case in which it is a hardship, that the goods may be altered on the premises after they come back.

26555. Is there any great harm in it even if they are altered on the premises ?

But if they are made up in one of the lowest dens of the city, where fever and other epidemic diseases may exist, and we are compelled to alter them, we run the risk of contagion.

26556. You assume that they are made in the lowest dens of the city, because you have told us that you do not know anything about where they are made ?

I did not say that I did not know anything about it. I am prepared to prove that one of the firms in question gets goods made in one of the lowest places in the City of Edinburgh, Scot's Close ; that is off Cowgate : work has been traced from the firm in question to that place.

26557. Is it your view that the people in places like Cowgate, such as you describe, are to have no work ?

No, certainly not ; we do not wish to deprive anyone of work.

26558. You seem to think it an injury to you that the work should be sent to such places as that ?

Well, I have already indicated one way in which it is an injury from a sanitary point of view ; but we, as a trade, distinctly consider it an injury that it should be sent to be made in places where the people have to work at such a price that they cannot afford to live in decent localities.

26559. I rather gathered from what you said just now, that you thought that the price arranged between the men and the employer was the market price, without any regard to the ordinary conditions of arriving at the market price ; you said that the price was fixed between yourselves and the employers in these large firms, and then you seemed to think it a matter of surprise that anyone should come afterwards and propose to do work at a lower figure ; that surely is the higgling of the market from which the consumer generally benefits in all the transactions that arise ?

Yes, I have said that it is the rule in these large contracts that the price is usually fixed between the employer and the employed. Too often for us it is the employer that fixes it. After that price is fixed, the sweater, as we call him, comes in and offers to make it at a lower price ; of course in the interest of the consumer that is a perfectly fair transaction ; but the contract price to the employer having been already fixed, the lowering of the price of producing the article by the sweater does not in the slightest degree benefit the consumer ; it only benefits the employer. And besides, I want to combat the idea that the consumer should always be considered. The producer has some right to consideration in political economy, as well as the consumer of the article.

26560. Do you agree to that in the matter of the production of food ?

Yes, I would agree to it in the matter of the production of food, provided that land was not a limited quantity.

26561. Lord *Sandhurst.*] You said just now that the employer got the profit by the sweating ; surely you mean that the sweater gets the profit ?

If a sweater comes in and offers to work at, say, 25 per cent. less than the price which has been agreed upon between the employer and the workmen, the employer pockets that 25 per cent. Of course the sweater in this case is the master sweater ; he takes his profit out of the people below him again, but he would not get it at all unless he was making it at a smaller price than what the different men in the shops are prepared to make it for.

26562. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] What is the nature of the places where the home work is done in Edinburgh ; is it always done in living rooms, or are there any workshops attached to any of the houses ?

So far as I am aware there is only one party who works for master tailors outside

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[Continued.]

outside their own workshops who has got a workshop apart from his living rooms. In the case of all the others the goods are made up in living rooms and bedrooms.

26563. And do I understand that you would prohibit the work in the workshops as well as in these private rooms?

No.

26564. Only in the private rooms?

That is all; that is the extent to which I would propose that sweating should be limited.

26565. Do you find that your rule as to workmen staying away from work when they dwell in houses where contagious diseases are in existence is very largely made use of?

We have not had very large expenditure through it; it has not formed a heavy item in our expenditure; but I must state myself that during my term of office as general secretary several cases occurred in which it was taken advantage of, and I myself am a case in point. I had a fever in my family, and I stayed away from work in order to prevent the risk of contagion to my fellow workmen or my employer's customers. And in the ordinary way of working with your fellow-workmen you have some knowledge of what is going on, but in the case of a man who is working outside the employer can have no knowledge of what is going on in his family, because it is not he that finds the messenger to and from, but it is the man that works out that finds the messenger to and from the place where the work is made and the workshop, and consequently he has no knowledge of either the sanitary state of the place where the work is being made, or of the sanitary condition of the man's family.

26566. I suppose the allowance you give to a man in such a case is not equal to what he can make when in work?

No; we pay exactly the same allowance to a man who is compelled to cease work as to a man ceasing work from a strike or lock-out. In a case of infection some men would do it from conviction; others would require to be compelled. We do not say that men who work in shops are saints any more than men who work out. Some men who work in shops would try to keep it dark that they had infection in their home. We pay them exactly the same allowance for ceasing work as if they were ceasing work in the case of strike or lock-out.

26567. Lord *Monkswell*] You do not in any way proportion it to the amount the men earn; it is a fixed sum?

No, we do not proportion it to the amount they earn.

26568. And do you think it is generally effectual?

From my own experience I have not known a case of epidemic or contagious disease, such as fevers and small-pox, in which men were working when their families were living under it, since this rule came in force. I have known cases before we made the rule.

26569. I thought you said just now that men had to be forcibly prevented from doing work?

No; I said that they might have to be forcibly prevented.

26570. But you have never known a case of that?

I have never known a case of it since the rule came in force of paying them for leaving work.

26571. Does the public in Edinburgh inquire as to sweating at all; does the person who goes in to buy a thing in the shops make any inquiry in the town with the view of finding out whether those shoppeople sweat or not?

Occasionally. I may state that while acting as the general secretary of my trade society, I have on two occasions published pamphlets in reference to the system, and these have been scattered broadcast throughout the country by post and otherwise, and we have found them have a considerable effect in causing customers to make inquiries as to whether the work was made on the

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Mr. M'LEAN.

[Continued.]

premises or not; and occasionally we have customers who come to see the workshop where the work is to be made.

26572. Is it not rather a dangerous thing for a private firm to send out all its work to be sweated, when, owing to the factory clause, they have to do a great deal of contract work in their own factory?

There is no firm in Edinburgh that gives out all its work.

26573. But if it was generally known, it would set public opinion against the firm, I suppose?

Yes, and so it does; and therefore they keep a workshop, even though they do not get half the work made in the workshop.

26574. *Chairman.*] What you would wish, as I understand, is that all work should be done in factories or workshops?

In factories or workshops inspected under the law.

26575. Would it be sufficient, in your opinion, if all places where work is carried on had to be registered, and were subjected to the rules regulating factories and workshops at present?

Well, without expressing a definite opinion as to whether that would be sufficient, it would very largely tend to prevent the system going on if these places were registered the same as a factory. If all places where work is carried on were compelled to be registered the same as factories are, under the 75th clause of the Factory and Workshops Act, it would very largely tend to reduce the practice.

26576. Is there anything else you wish to say?

I can only say (and what I have to say will be very brief) from my general knowledge as secretary of that association, that even in towns where the practice does not at all exist, the system existing elsewhere affects us as a trade very injuriously. For instance, contracts are sent to London and made upon the sweating principle that otherwise would very likely be made in the locality where the garments have to be worn. Volunteer uniforms and such things, and also police uniforms, are very largely sent to London, even from such places as Inverness. We had a case of very serious hardship this last winter. A contract that used always to be made in the town was sent to London, while there was a difference of only 2s. 3d. per suit in the actual price, the actual cost; and I may state that during my inquiries in reference to the uniform of the submarine miners in Dundee, I found that they were sweated there also, the major portion of them; and in Greenock, where there is a pretty large corps, the whole of them were sent to Glasgow and made upon that system.

26577. Therefore, although the sweating system does not exist in a particular locality, you think that your trade would suffer in that locality on account of its existence elsewhere.

Certainly.

26578. In fact, you object altogether to the competition of goods made under this system?

It is what we hold to be unfair competition. In fact, the system is a standing menace to us as a trade.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES C. LAIRD, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

26579. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your trade?

I am a tailor by trade.

26580. And you live in Newcastle, do you not?

46 and 48, Pitt-street, Newcastle.

26581. Po

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Mr. LAIRD.

[Continued]

26581. Do you hold any office at all in your trades' council?

I have been president of the trades' council in the district for about 14 years. I resigned on account of an over pressure of public work last November. I could not attend to it on account of having too much public work to do; being a member of the town council and also a member of the school board, and several other associations in which I take a very lively interest, I could not devote the time that was necessary to it.

26582. Are you working at your trade now?

Yes.

26583. Have you a thorough knowledge of the tailoring trade in Newcastle?

A thorough knowledge of the tailoring trade in Newcastle; and more, I have been a member of the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors for 18 years. Consequently I have had opportunities, personally and otherwise, of seeing the system throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland.

26584. First of all I will ask you with regard to Newcastle?

As to Newcastle, I may say that several attempts have been made, especially from 1886 up to the present time, to introduce the system as practically carried on in the East End of London. That has been as determinedly opposed upon each occasion by calling public attention to it, by holding public meetings in the town, and pointing out the danger of the system that was likely or attempted to be introduced; that, I may say, has had the effect of considerably rousing public opinion, and in consequence I think that it has not made the headway that the attempts to introduce it would lead one to expect. That tendency has naturally increased more at the present time than it was at that time. I speak now of sweaters purely and simply as middlemen, not as home workers, and in speaking of the sweating system as the system of middlemen or sub-contracting, I think at the present time there are altogether about 23 of those people employing labour more or less in the town. As an instance I may state what I mean. Some few years ago a Polish Jew who made his living by putting in glass which he carried round his neck, took a place in a portion of the town, and although not a tailor himself went and solicited work in several of this other inferior class of places, employed Jews and women for the purpose, and divided it into sections, and by that means gained a good livelihood, and did much better than he had done previously by carrying and putting in the glass, not being a practical tailor himself, but taking the work and sub-letting it.

26585. That would be in ready-made goods, I suppose?

Principally a lower order of what they call cross order trades; that is, trades which have garments ticketed in the windows, and then if they do not suit the customer, or do not fit, they agree to make them for the same price as what they have seen, to measure; they call them cross orders.

26586. Do you mean, with regard to that instance that you have given us, that there are many others like that in Newcastle, of middlemen not having a knowledge of the trade?

That case came under my own personal knowledge; that was the reason I gave it as an illustration, to show you what I mean to convey; I could not at the present moment recall a similar case.

26587. The other middlemen that you have spoken of, I suppose, would be practical tailors themselves?

As far as I know they are, but the principal portion of them are women, except a section of the community, as to whom I do not know that it would be any credit if they did belong to the trade, the other people who loaf about it; when they so commit themselves in other places they take refuge in those places.

26588. And that system has been checked, as I understand you, by calling public attention to the matter?

It has; still, it has increased from what it was at the time I allude to; the place itself has naturally grown very largely in the meantime, the population being now more than double as compared with the time that I speak of, and

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therefore that has proportionately increased with it, although to a very limited extent.

26589. And in what way is public opinion brought to bear upon it?

By public meetings, by letters to the press, and also by placards, wall literature.

26590. Quite so; but I do not understand how public opinion or public indignation in the matter can affect the system; how do people know when they are buying goods whether they are made under this system or whether they are not made under this system?

The system we pursue is by circular, and asking gentlemen who give their orders to ascertain in the first instance whether the clothes for which they give the order are made on the premises and under the immediate supervision of the firm, and if not, why so. In some instances, where there has been any doubt, it has been where some of the gentlemen have asked to see the workshops in which the clothes were made. In that manner we have called attention by circular through the post from the Directory to it; and I think it has had, what I should consider, a very good effect.

26591. Then do you object to the outworkers altogether, like the former witness?

We do not object so much to what may be called home working, as we do to the sweating, or middlemen, or sub-contracting, whichever expression may be used. Those are what we are most determinedly opposed to. I may say that for about 14 years, fully 14 years, we have had a clause by which we compel people who have any infectious disease in the house to desist from work, and they are allowed 15s. a week for it. My attention was first called to that some 15 or 16 years ago, during an epidemic of smallpox in Newcastle. I went to see one party working out, and I myself saw clothes that had to be sent, on the bed of a child that had the disease. Afterwards, the medical officer of health of the town thought there were other instances.

26592. Is there much ready-made clothing, for home or for export, made in Newcastle?

There is no export that I know of, but some large firms in the town are getting into a system of having on their own premises a small factory, if one may use the expression, wherein men and women work in the same place, and the work in that particular instance is divided into departments, each doing their portion of it; and the result of that is that it has the same effect to a very great extent upon the reduction of wages as what it would be if it were actually going out; although we do not object to it on that ground, we think that it would be the best plan if properly regulated.

26593. What do you mean by "properly regulated"?

The Factory and Workshop Act strictly enforced.

26594. Then is it not enforced?

I am sorry to say that they drive the usual carriage and pair through the Act some way or another.

26595. In what way do they do so?

By working long hours; and wherever the system of piece-work is introduced, payment by piece, that has a tendency to violate it. Where women are paid by time, that is, so much per week, that tendency does not exist; but I do know an instance, some three weeks ago, where the girls working were told that if they did not work two hours longer, they would have to take new employment, working I mean, till 9 o'clock at night.

26596. Is the sanitary condition of these small factories or shops good?

As to the sanitary condition, I do not think any fault could be found with it.

26597. Do you know anything of the sanitary condition of these middlemen's places where they carry on their work?

As to some of them; and there are three of them more especially that occur to my mind at the present time; two of them are Jews, and one of them is
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not so, but one of them more especially, has one of the most disgraceful places that ever I saw in my life, and I have seen some of them in Manchester, Liverpool, and the East of London, and I never saw anything worse than this place. The stench was enough to destroy the olfactory nerves of any ordinary person; sleeping, cooking, the ordinary domestic work, and this work, all going on in the same room.

2659δ. Do you know anything of the sanitary condition of the homes of the workmen?

The sanitary condition of some of them no fault could be found with; an instance or two occurs to my mind where the sanitary conditions are everything that could be expected from an ordinary workman's dwelling.

26599. Is it the custom to employ these learners?

It is, in some instances, to employ learners. A man who has learned the trade himself from his wife employs learners; he has never served his time to the trade; his wife did, and she taught him; and they have ten women employed at the present time, and they take learners; he himself, I mean, takes girls, teaching them to do machining or a portion of the trade, and when that is learned they are done with them, but they are not bound.

26600. Is any of the bespoke trade put out to these middlemen and home workers, or is it generally done on the premises?

It is done in both. In the greater number of cases in the bespoke trade the work is done on the premises, and under their own immediate supervision; but some of them at the same time have those places to which I have alluded, at a distance, workmen working for them at a distance; and the system is there pursued that I have called attention to.

26601. As to the municipal contracts and other contracts, have you anything to say about them?

They are let by tender; and as I was a member of the watch committee at that time, I introduced a motion to the watch committee that in future in all contracts there should be an understanding as to all tenders, that they should be done on the premises and under the immediate supervision of the contractor. That was verbally agreed to; but I do understand that that has to a very great extent been violated this last two years; that clothes have been given out after the distinct understanding that such should not be the case, and into a very disreputable part.

26602. I understand you that you think that the best way in which the work could be carried on is in factories and workshops, provided, of course, that the law is carried out in them?

Yes.

26603. But that you do not object to work being taken home to be done by home workers?

No, not under those conditions to which I have already referred. The principal cause that I see for a violation of it is the piece-work system. I think that if time-work were allowed, and proper supervision kept over them, it would be almost all that we desire. In the first instance I think that I express almost the unanimous opinion of gentlemen with whom I have acted for a length of time, who know the exact state of things, when I say that if the domestic workshops were registered, and if a large number of practical working men were appointed as sub-inspectors at a small salary, an ordinary workman's salary, in order that the ground might be more effectually covered, I think that would meet the case to a very great extent. I do not only speak that as my own personal opinion, having studied the question for years, but also as the opinion of those who are well able to form an opinion in connection with it.

26604. Is there a regular log, a statement of prices, in the town?

There is a regular statement of prices; but in the class to which I allude that is the middlemen or sub-contractors, they volunteer, and in instances serve employers with a list at which they will make up the garments, being a considerable reduction from the acknowledged statement or log of the town.

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26605. How is the acknowledged statement or log arrived at?

It is arrived at mutually between employers and employed, both meeting in committee and commencing from the very first, and discussing every item in connection with it, each being discussed as they proceed with it, and a note of the same being kept by a secretary acting on behalf of the employers, and a secretary acting on behalf of the men. The result is summed up, and they arrive at so much as the amount mutually agreed to between the two. Those to whom I refer serve the employers with a list at a considerable reduction from that statement, and then that has to be sub-divided again with those who make it.

26606. When was the first log settled?

In 1866 it was introduced, it was revised in 1868, and again a revision took place in 1873.

26607. The present prices have stood since 1870?

The present prices have stood since 1873, with the exception I have told you about others volunteering to make for less.

26608. Lord *Clinton*.] We had some time ago a definition of a sweater as a man who made profit out of workmen and others, contributing neither capital, skill, nor labour to the work himself; is that your definition of it?

That is the true definition of the sweating system, in my opinion.

26609. You gave an instance, I think, of a man who was a glazier setting up a tailoring shop?

Yes.

26610. Do you object to that also; to a man taking a sub-contract even if he is a professional tailor?

I do object to a man taking a contract out and sweating away the wages of those under him.

26611. But even if the man was a professional tailor, do you object to a man sub-contracting in that way?

Yes, I object to any who have workers under them taking a sub-contract and sweating their wages.

26612. As I understand, you do not object to people working at home, or working for one master?

No; we have even asked people to go home to work when they might have some disease (I do not mean an infectious disease) in connection with them so that they could not work regularly in the shop; we have advised them in such cases to go home and pursue the avocations there.

26613. Your principal reason against home-work is the danger of infection?

Yes, it is on those grounds that we have agitated the question for a number of years.

26614. The proper regulation of it would remove that objection?

I think so.

26615. Lord *Sandhurst*.] Do you know any cases of a quantity of goods being sent to London to be made up?

Only in one instance, the police clothing, and it was so unsatisfactory that the municipal authority at that time determined that it should never go to London again. It cost them far more for alterations and other etceteras in connection with it, than if they had accepted any of the original tenders sent in. As I stated, contracts are let by tender.

26616. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You stated that the present log prices have stood since 1873?

Yes.

26617. Has there been any question of revising them since that time?

Several;

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Several; but there has never been anything carried into practical effect, because the fashions have so changed since then, that some of the items therein contained are almost obsolete.

26618. I think I understood you to say that although the log prices have not been altered there has been considerable tendency on the part of various people to take work at a lower price?

Yes, that is, middlemen.

26619. And does not that suggest that a revision of the log prices is necessary?

Not naturally; because in the case to which that would allude, it would be a greater inducement to compete. At the present time the prices are barely sufficient to allow a respectable working man to bring up his family and educate them properly in order to do as the law requires them to do.

26620. But is it not the case if there is a large tendency on the part of people to take work at less wages, that the log prices are somewhat above the market price?

No, it is not so; because it would be a greater inducement for the others to compete still. I mean, supposing that there was a revision taking place of the statement of the town, the result of that would be naturally, as the tendency has been for years, to increase instead of decrease; because we find that we are not now on a level with other artizans; therefore, the natural tendency would be to increase the present statement or log price. That, therefore, would be a greater inducement for more keen competition from those outside that are not so scrupulous.

26621. Lord *Monkswell*.] What do you mean by "Not on a level with other artizans"?

Speaking of the trade of the district of Tynside since November last, it has gradually increased, and the wages of the skilled artizans and mechanics of the district have gone by bounds up to a very good position.

26622. You mean to say that the wages of other mechanics and artizans have increased, but yours have not increased?

No, ours have been stationary.

26623. There has been a general increase, in short, but yours has not shared in the increase?

Yes; while probably during the years of the great depression, our trade was a little over the average rate of wages; we, at the present time, are under it.

26624. May it not be the case in other trades as in your trade, that whereas the price agreed between masters and men is a certain amount, people are always breaking down that price.

To a certain extent; although some of the large associated societies, the Amalgamated Engineers, have a rule to the effect that you are not allowed to earn more than time and a-half on piece-work, such is not the case with us.

26625. Do you think it would be advisable to have a rule of that description in your trade, or in every trade?

We being all piece-work, with very rare exceptions, I do not know that it would be applicable. The average rate per hour of the district would run somewhere about $7\frac{1}{4}d.$; with us it is only $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ an hour.

26626. Do you say that you object to piece-work?

No. I object to piece-work on certain conditions. Where those girls are employed, I think it is an inducement for them to work longer hours than are absolutely necessary. There is a greater difficulty in limiting the hours of labour where it is strictly piece-work than where it is time-work, or on weekly wages.

26627. How would you limit piece-work; what is your proposition with regard to that limitation of piece-work that there ought to be?

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The limitation of piece-work as applied to the factories and workshops, would be a regular number of hours, and so much per week, whatever it might be.

26628. You would regulate the number of hours a person might work, not only for women and children but for male adults?

It could be done for male adults, but it is never found so satisfactory; there is such a diversity in the tailoring trade in the quality of the men. The log is based upon an average, but some men will make in the same time much more than others, and there being no limitation as to the amount a man shall make, some men will make one garment in one-third or one-half less time than another man will.

26629. Then a great many of the best tailors will earn a great deal less than 5*½*d., which you say is the average amount?

They do so; and not only so, but where machinery is introduced, that being a very inferior class, though they are paid considerably less, by reason of the use they make of machinery, they earn a very large amount there.

26630. So that the tailors who use machinery can earn on an average as much as other artizans?

Yes, they can.

26631. Then the tailors who do not use machinery do not earn as much as the average artizan?

Yes; and the first-class establishments do not run machines in their establishments the same as the cheap places do.

26632. It seems strange, the hand-work being the best work, that the hand-work tailors should get less than the machine-work tailors?

The only reasonable way of accounting for it is that they consider to a great extent their dignity lowered if they go into those places where there is machinery to work.

26633. Then you think it is partly the fault of the men that they do not go away from the hand trade into the machine trade so fast as they should?

Some of them take a great pride in their trade, and that is the reason they object to do it.

26634. You do not enforce the factory provision in municipal contracts, or you say it is often evaded?

In municipal contracts it is let by tender.

26635. I thought you said there was a clause that in all municipal tailoring contracts the work must be made in the workshop of the tailor?

I said that during the time I was on the watch committee I introduced a resolution to that effect, which was carried; but since then I have been given to understand that it has been violated.

26636. I ask you what steps, if any, are taken to enforce that provision?

We have taken no steps because at the present time it is in operation yet; they are busy now with the contract, and we have called the attention of the watch committee to the fact that the violation has taken place.

26637. In fact it has been a dead letter ever since it was passed, or nearly so?

Practically so.

26638. Lord *Rothschild*.] Did I understand you to say that the wages have never been so low in Newcastle as they have been in London?

I do not know that I said that they have never been so low. I was asked by one of your Lordships with regard to tenders, and I said that the tender had been sent to London upon one occasion, and the result was so unsatisfactory that we never sent another on account of the alterations that were required in connection with it.

26639. I may

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26639. I may have misunderstood you ; but I understood you to say that the wages had never been so depressed in Newcastle as they were in London, although at the same time they are not so high now ?

No. I was talking of the general trade of the district, and not comparing with London ; I have no means of making such a comparison.

26640. What would you say are the average wages of a tailor at Newcastle now ?

With regard to the average wages at Newcastle, I should say that the men working in the best firms would not average above 25 s. a week ; some weeks they will have considerably more.

26641. What can they earn in a good week ?

I can earn sometimes between 2 l. and 3 l.

26642. With a machine ?

We use very little machinery in our place ; it is so limited a use of it that it is hardly worth taking any notice of whatever. Gentlemen themselves, our customers, object to machinery on account of work done by it being too "slopified."

26643. *Chairman.*] What is the machinery used for generally ?

For the inside of the coat, the same as this (*the Witness describes it by pointing to the inside of his coat*), and in tweed coats doing the front edges. That is all that is done with it in our place, but in those other places the whole of the seam and the pockets, and everything that the machine can do is done by it. I remember going upon a deputation in connection with a dispute, and the employer asked me if I knew exactly how far machinery went into it, and I told him that my knowledge of machinery was so limited that I could not say. He said, "Well, practically the machine does everything but the white sewing"; that is the basting.

26644. With regard to these middlemen, the effect of them is to reduce the price of wages, of course, to the people who work for them ?

It is so.

26645. Do they have any effect to reducing the selling price of the goods made.

I do not know practically whether the difference goes into their pockets or not ; I feel certain that the public are not the recipients of the difference ; because with regard to the places to which I more particularly allude, they are first-class places ; those other ready-made places are slop-places, and I do not know so much about them.

26646. You said just now that you were well acquainted with the conditions of your trade, and what is commonly known as the sweating system in England, Ireland, and Scotland ?

Yes.

26647. As to the North, I should judge by what you have said that the alleged evil is not very great in Newcastle, and, from what the former witness said, that it is not very bad in Edinburgh. What would you say about Scotland generally ?

I think that I could about endorse what Mr. McLean has said with regard to it. One or two places, more particularly, that I have seen in Greenock and in Glasgow are very bad ; but, generally speaking, the system is not acknowledged or tolerated in Scotland. They take a clearer or closer definition of the word than we do, because the general acceptation of the term in Scotland is that he who takes his work home is a sweater. We make a distinction between a home worker and a middle-man or sweater.

26648. Then would you say that the sweating is more prevalent in England than in Scotland, in your trade ?

I think it is, and more especially in some parts of it. I do not know whether I am repeating what has been said already, but if your Lordships could only

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have information from some of the Midlands, if you have not already had it, I feel sure that it would be startling; about Dudley, in Worcestershire, and round about that neighbourhood, judging from what I have seen of it myself.

26649. Then as to Ireland?

As to Ireland, it is still more limited in Ireland than it is in Scotland. In a large number of places it is practically unknown; I mean in some of the large towns. It has increased in Belfast, for instance, this last three years, but not to any very great extent. As to some of the other towns in some parts of Ireland, Clonmel, and those other places, there is not such a thing in it. There have been several attempts, but they have been unsuccessful, to introduce the system.

26650. How do you account for that?

I think by the combination of the workmen, because if an attempt is made to introduce it into any of those other places it is at once most determinedly met, except in Dublin. In Dublin it is recognised amongst the men themselves; in Dublin they have a branch belonging to the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, composed entirely of out-workers, not sweaters, but out-workers.

26651. What they call sweaters in Scotland?

Yes, they call them sweaters in Scotland, but what we define as home-workers; they are not middlemen.

26652. How do you come to be acquainted with the condition of the trade in Ireland?

I was a member of the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society of England for 18 years, until recently, and I gave it up on the same grounds as I gave the other up. In my position as a member of the Executive Council I have frequently, if there was any likelihood of there being disputes in England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, have to go to those places and ascertain the particulars. Sometimes a telegram would come when I was in bed, and I had to go away by the first train and prevent a dispute.

26653. Are there branches all over the United Kingdom?

All over the United Kingdom; not in every place, but throughout the kingdom.

26654. Is Dublin singular in the fact that out-workers are admitted to membership?

Yes; quite singular in that respect. That applies to Ireland only, as there are out-working branches in England.

26655. Do you know how that happened to come about?

I have no idea how it happened; but ever since I knew Dublin such has been the case.

26656. Do you think it is objectionable?

It depends on the degree. They work for a class of employers different altogether from the first class, that is, the ready-made or cross-order people, and they are limited to this class only. The result of that was that they formed a branch; I do not remember the date of the formation of the branch, but a number of years ago they formed a branch entirely composed of those who worked for second or third class employers.

26657. How do you account for the fact that sweating is so much more prevalent in some towns than in others?

On two grounds; first, by the strong action of the men themselves, who are directly affected, if they are combined, through their combination or society, and by that means calling public attention to the dangers arising from it.

26658. You mean that where the men are combined it does not exist, and where they are combined it does exist?

You will find that wherever the sweating system has a very great hold upon the people the organisation of the men themselves is very loose, and also you will find the contrary; that whenever the combinations are strong, and through that working on public opinion, there it does not exist to any great extent.

26659. Do

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26659. Do you think that foreign immigration has anything to do with it?

Immigration has a very great deal to do with it, as far as we practically understand it, from the simple reason that most of those employed in it are foreigners, Germans, Polish Jews, and classes of that ilk.

26660. Have you anything that you would like to suggest as to the means for preventing the alleged evil?

The principal suggestion that I would make in connection with it is, as I have already stated, registration of domestic workshops. During the discussion that took place on the Trades Union Act such a provision was introduced, but on the motion, I think, of Professor Fawcett that clause was struck out at that time on account of its being an invasion of the workmen's dwellings, which was more sentiment probably than anything else, though I respect the opinion of that gentleman; but it would, I think, have been carried on that occasion. I not only speak my own opinion, which I have formed after years of study on the question, but also the opinions, as I have stated previously, of those who have given the question their consideration for years also, when I suggest registration of domestic workshops, and a large extension of assistant inspectors for the purpose of more effectually carrying out the Act. What I mean by that is, not an appointment of people with high salaries; because, if you will pardon my saying it, it is our opinion, rightly or wrongly conceived, that when large salaries are paid very often gentlemen get too high for their work. We, therefore, think that if practical workmen were appointed as assistant inspectors, under the same chief, say, that the inspectors have already, and to report to him, he to be the means or medium of communication between them and the office, that would have the effect that we desire, and at the same time we are not opposed to the extension of the Factory Act, because we know several instances, as in Newcastle-under-Lyne, where factories where large numbers of women are employed are model places. We wish to have them, as far as possible, raised to the standard that prevails there; and we therefore do not object to the continuation of female labour, but we wish it so arranged that, at all events, it shall not be injurious to those that are at present employed.

26661. By the illustration of domestic workshops, you mean also that the Factory Act should apply to them?

Yes; and in order that the inspectors should have some standing, and be able to inspect them in the same way as they do those already in existence; or the sanitary authorities, as the case may be.

26662. Would you include in domestic workshops places where only members of the same family were working?

I would include all places where work is done, because it is the introduction of the evil that we want to check; we find that where in the first instance that has gone on, it is the means of spreading the evil that we complain of. When they go home they employ some auxiliary aid, and the result of that is that the hours are lengthened, the family is impressed into it, and so the evil commences. In the town to which I myself belong, I know at the present time of two instances of children who are systematically kept from school, evading the Education Act, in order that they may attend to the house duties, all being of school age and not having passed the regular standards, in order that the parents themselves may work or sweat out.

26663. Now as to these additional inspectors, you spoke of working men; are we to understand that you think that a technical knowledge is required on the part of inspectors or assistants?

Not so much technical knowledge as a practical knowledge; a practical knowledge of what is absolutely necessary, and being thoroughly conversant with the Act as it at present stands. I think that would be a step in the right direction; but not to pass the same standards as they have had to do. I think it is the means to a very great extent of defeating the object that the Legislature had in view when they passed that Act.

26664. What I want to know is whether you think that it would be necessary
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to have assistants as inspectors who were tailors in order to combat the sweating in the tailoring trade; and so on as regards other trades also?

I do not know whether I would confine it to one particular trade, to the pursuit of a particular calling; I should put practical qualified working men, qualified practically in connection with it irrespective of the trade to which they belong, and hold them, through their chief, responsible; hold the chief responsible for their action. At smaller salaries, a working-man's wage, a matter of 2 l. a week.

26665. Do you think it would be advisable if the factory inspector had sanitary authority also?

I do.

26666. You said that you thought foreign immigration had something to do with the existence of sweating; do you think that that is of sufficient importance to make it desirable or necessary to check foreign immigration in any way?

I think it very desirable that something should be done for the purpose, because we find relatives sending for each other, and imposing upon them to a very great extent. That occurs in our own immediate locality, that people have been induced to come there through promises from their own friends, and when they have arrived there they have not found themselves in the position which was represented, and the result is that they have had to have recourse to this means of earning a livelihood; and I think that immigration of foreigners in the position to which I have alluded has a very great deal to do with it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES HENDERSON, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

26667. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your position?

I am the Superintending Inspector of Factories for Scotland and the North of England.

26668. Have you lately made any special inquiries into the workshops and factories in Edinburgh and Newcastle?

Yes; in company with Mr. Oram, the travelling secretary of this Committee, I have visited a large number of workshops both in Edinburgh and Newcastle.

26669. What have you to say as to their condition?

I can confirm generally the evidence of the two previous witnesses, that so far as what is known as the sweating system goes, it does not prevail to any very large extent in either of those places.

26670. Is it the case, do you know, that middlemen do not exist largely in Edinburgh?

Not very much; there are one or two exceptional cases, but they do not exist to any great extent.

26671. The work is largely carried on there by means of what have been called home-workers?

Home-workers, or in the workshops connected with the sale-shops. There is practically no ready-made clothing made up in Edinburgh at all; it is all bought, and there is very little now in Newcastle; there is less in Newcastle now than there formerly was.

26672. How is that?

One of the largest manufacturers in Newcastle has recently established a factory in Leeds, and he has transferred the whole of his business to Leeds.

26673. But the middlemen do exist in Newcastle?

Slightly; there are a few, but very few compared with the population of the town.

26674. There

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[Continued.]

26674. There was a public meeting in Newcastle, was there not, and a good deal of public attention called to the so-called sweating in 1888?

Yes, there was.

26675. Has that had any appreciable effect?

I think it has, that and the disclosures before this Committee I think have had a considerable effect in inducing employers to look more sharply after the places in which their work is done.

26676. Do you know why this ready-made business has been removed to Leeds?

Leeds has become the great centre of the ready-made clothing in the North now; it is becoming more and more concentrated into factories; that enables them to subdivide the work more minutely.

26677. You are of course well acquainted with all the large manufacturing towns in Scotland and the north of England?

I am.

26678. Where should you say that the sweating prevails principally?

We have some considerable portion of it in Glasgow, more than in any other of the northern cities; there is no other place where it prevails to any appreciable extent almost but Glasgow.

26679. Nowhere is it so bad as at Glasgow?

No, not in the North.

26680. We have had two rather distinct definitions of sweating before the Committee to-day; what is your opinion on the matter?

I rarely find two men who can agree upon the definition; but my own idea has always been that there ought to be an element of subcontracting in it.

26681. Have you any opinion with regard to what the last witness has said about foreign immigration?

It does not affect us in the North at all, only indirectly. The rate of wages paid in London for the manufacture of clothing no doubt practically regulates the rate of wages paid everywhere else in the country, but beyond that I do not think that the influence of it is felt.

26682. Is there any foreign immigration?

Nothing direct so far as I can learn. Any foreigners who come come from London.

26683. What have you to say as to the suggestion of Mr. Laird, that there should be a number of assistant inspectors appointed; working men?

Undoubtedly, if the scope of the Act is extended in the way that he indicates, the staff would require to be increased; but I have not formed any opinion at all that it is necessary to have any technical knowledge on the part of the inspector. I think practical common sense and earnestness, and steadiness are really the main qualities that are to be looked for in an inspector. Any technical knowledge that he may require a man of common sense can acquire in a very short time by a little experience.

26684. Do you consider the present staff sufficient for the Act as it stands at present?

No, I am not prepared to say so.

26685. Would it require to be largely increased if the Act was extended, as has been suggested?

I do not apprehend a very large extension, but still there would have to be an increased number; it is one of those things that would have to be tested by experience as we went along. I think, perhaps, the weakest district in regard to inspection is London itself, if the Act was extended so as to embrace these workshops.

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[*Continued.*]

26686. And as to giving the inspectors under the Factory and Workshops Act sanitary authority, what would you think of that ?

I think that is very much required ; more direct and distinct authority.

26687. Do you know whether sweating exists in many other trades besides clothing in your district ?

The low payment of wages exists ; but I cannot hardly call that sweating, according to my definition of the sweating system.

26688. That is, as far as sub-contracting forms a part of it, you would say it is confined principally to the clothing ?

Principally to the clothing.

26689. Have you anything to suggest in the way of combating the alleged evils of the sweating system ?

I think they could be mitigated to a considerable extent by the extension of the Act to all workshops ; and, I think, I am quite prepared to limit that extension to workshops in which clothing is manufactured. I think there are special reasons for embracing the manufacture of clothing which do not apply to other trades, unless where young persons and women are employed ; and of course these are under the Act already.

26690. What reasons do you mean ?

Sanitary reasons.

26691. On account of carrying infection ?

On account of carrying infection.

26692. Do you know anything of the ticketing system at Glasgow ?

Yes, I know the system of ticketing houses.

26693. Does that work well, do you think ?

I believe it does. I think something of that kind, extended to domestic workshops, would be very useful as indicating the number of people that might be employed within them, and whether they were registered and sanctioned as workshops.

26694. Would you include the purely family workshops in domestic workshops ?

Yes, in the manufacture of clothing.

26695. Do you think there would not be great repugnance on the part of people, who were merely members of the same family working together, to being subject to inspection at all hours ?

I have never experienced that, and I have visited a very large number of places of that kind.

26696. But you have no jurisdiction in such places ?

No ; but they never, in my experience, declined a visit.

26697. Lord *Thring*.] Do you really think that if the ticketed houses system were extended to London, for instance, people would submit to an inspector coming in at all times of the day and night in private houses.

I can only say that I was an inspector in London for 10 years, and I never had any difficulty in entering any house where I presented myself and asked permission.

26698. But you did not enter in the middle of the night into private houses, did you ?

No, I never did that.

26699. But that is the essence of the matter ?

But I have entered private houses very late at night in the West End of London where a portion of the house was a workshop.

26700. But the ticketed houses, I understand, are quite a different thing ; a certain number of houses which are small, I forget the exact contents, are
visited

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[Continued.]

visited at any time of the day or night, and there is a strict law that only a limited number of persons are to live in those houses ; in other words, the small houses in Glasgow are numbered, and are only allowed to contain a certain number of people ?

Yes.

26701. And do not you think that that would meet with opposition in London, for instance ?

I think if the people understood that it was a law for their own benefit they would not object.

26702. You think they would not object to the breaking the privacy of their houses if that were stated to them ?

They might object ; but I do not see why their objection should be accepted if it is for the benefit of the health of the people.

26703. It is, in fact, an extremely strict law to prevent overcrowding ?

Yes.

26704. And you think that that would be advantageous ?

I think so.

26705. What description of house would you include within the ticket-house system ?

That is more a question for a sanitary engineer to answer than for myself. I cannot profess to be sufficiently informed upon sanitary questions to give an opinion on that. We deal more with the question of overwork. Dr. Russell in Glasgow, who is a man of considerable experience in that matter, has fixed a minimum space, and I think it is about the lowest that could be accepted consistent with health.

26706. And you agree with him in his evidence, in fact ?

I do ; I have not read his evidence, but I have read his paper.

26707. Earl of *Derby*.] Do I understand you to object to work being done at home ?

No.

26708. You would not propose to put any difficulty in the way of people wishing to take work home and do it there ?

Certainly not.

26709. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] Would you describe as sweated work any work that was taken home from the office of the person who gives out the work ?

No, not if it were done by the person who took it out. If the work was actually done by the individual who took the work home from the warehouse, I would not consider that sweated work.

26710. In Scotland, is not the term applied to all cases where the work is taken home, without reference to whether it is done by the person who takes it or not ?

Many people do put that interpretation upon it.

26711. As a matter of fact, is it customary for people to take work out in that way and do it themselves, or is it usual, as regards Scotland, for that work to be put out again to others ?

Both ; but I think in Scotland it is more usual for it to be done by themselves.

26712. Which, in itself, you would not consider objectionable ?

Not if it is done under proper sanitary conditions.

26713. With regard to the visits which you say you paid, did the people you visited understand that you did not come altogether officially ?

Well, they never asked me the question, but I explained who I was.

26714. I presume your visits were not strictly official in the cases to which you refer ?

Possibly I had no jurisdiction at all, but I called for the purpose of ascer-

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[Continued.]

taining whether I had or not. That is one of the difficulties under our existing Act, that certain workshops are not under our jurisdiction, and it almost involves the necessity of a call to ascertain that.

26715. I suppose that the fact of their knowing your official position would be sufficient to enable you to gauge what their feeling would have been, even supposing that there had been no doubt of your jurisdiction?

I think, as a rule, if they are respectfully greeted they will give a respectful return; that has been my experience. I have never received any incivility even from the very lowest class of people of that kind, and I cannot see but that they would understand that they were under inspection as are those houses in Glasgow that have been alluded to, where the ticket is on the house itself; the people there are perfectly aware that they are liable to a visit of the inspector at any time, and they do not resent it.

26716. You would like to see an extension of the powers of inspection? Yes, and the scope of the Act.

26717. Do you think there is an improvement, upon the whole, in the matter of sanitary arrangements in the shops in your district?

Very great, in my experience.

26718. That is owing, is it, to the action of the municipal authorities?

Partly, and partly to the independent action of the employers. I think there is a better appreciation now of their duty as employers than existed 25 years ago, and altogether, both in London and in the provinces, I think there is a very marked improvement in the condition of both factories and workshops.

26719. May I ask if you have visited, whether officially or otherwise, workshops, or rather rooms used as workshops, which would not come under the scope of the Act; have you been in the way of visiting places used as workshops, whether they actually come under the scope of the Act or not?

Yes; sometimes it is difficult for us to know whether they are under the scope of the Act till they are seen.

26720. Take the case of a man with a wife and family who employ their living room as a workshop; does that come under the Act?

That is called a domestic workshop; and if our visit is resented and refused, we can only enforce it by a warrant.

26721. Does it come under your jurisdiction?

To that extent.

26722. You can visit it?

We can visit it; if we thought that the Act was being broken in a workshop even of that class, we could apply for a warrant, and obtain authority to visit it if our admission was refused.

26723. In such cases have you frequently found a want of sanitary arrangements?

Yes; in private houses they are very frequently overcrowded.

26724. More so than in the larger places?

Yes.

26725. *Chairman.*] It would be quite possible now, would it not, for a shop where you have jurisdiction to be moved from your jurisdiction, by, say, the discharge of one female hand?

Or one lad.

26726. Does that cause much practical inconvenience and difficulty?

No; practically I do not know that it causes much inconvenience; but it is a great trouble to the inspector in regard to keeping a register of the workshops; a workshop may be under the Act this week, and not under the Act next week.

26727. Do you think the Act requires amendment in that way?

I think that so far as workshops go, in which the manufacture of clothing is concerned, they should be all put upon one footing.

26728. Do

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26728. Do you think that the Act requires amendment in any other direction?

I cannot suggest any at the moment. We do suffer in Scotland rather partially, from an overlook in the Act of 1878. The schedule of the clause in the Public Health Act for England was repealed, but it was not repealed for Scotland, and the consequence is that there is a class of workshops in Scotland now that technically are under no inspection at all.

26729. What would they be?

They are those that the local authorities were relieved of by Section 101, and the duty of enforcing the Act in these workshops was transferred to the inspector of factories; and in order to enable that to be effectually done certain sections of the Public Health Act had to be repealed; the sections are repealed so far as England is concerned, but not in so far as Scotland is concerned.

26730. So that a number of shops that were intended to be under your jurisdiction are not?

They are practically left out; they have fallen between us. I do not mean that any practical difficulty has occurred, because Dr. Russell and I have had the matter talked over, and as I have already said, we generally find occupiers of workshops quite amenable to any suggestion; they never ask us very distinctly whether we have any actual authority or not, and they obey any suggestion we make. But it is the fact that that is the practical position.

26731. Lord *Thring*.] When you say that the scope of the Act should be extended to all workshops in which clothing is made, how could you possibly define the making of clothing; for if an old woman knits a pair of socks, in one sense it is clothing?

I do not propose to go so far as that; but I would suggest that every person who gives out clothing to be manufactured, out of his own premises, should furnish the inspector with a list of the parties to whom he gives it.

26732. You mean where it is done?

Yes.

26733. You would not include cases were a family makes clothing for its own use?

No; the definition of a workshop is always to be making for sale.

26734. *Chairman*.] Is there anything else you wish to say?

Nothing.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. CHARLES C. W. HOARE, re-called; and further Examined.

26735. *Chairman*.] You told us when you were examined on the 25th of March what your district is. How many wholesale tailoring establishments are there in your district?

There are two large ones; Messrs. Grainger and Smith of Dudley, and Messrs. R. Stanway and Company of Shrewsbury. There are also a few smaller ones; one in Willenhall, one in Cradley, and one or two others, where work is put out.

26736. In all these cases the work is put out?

The work is put out.

26737. Is any work done on the premises at these two large establishments?

I beg pardon; I do not think the Shrewsbury firm put out work; I think it is all done on the premises. Messrs. Grainger and Smith have a large number of workers on the premises, and they put out work besides. They have also two branch establishments, which, up to a few weeks ago, were managed by a middleman; a man, I presume, that would come under the definition of a sweater.

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Continued.

26738. Do you mean managed by him on his own account?

Managed on their own account by these middlemen. At first I found out that there was a disposition on their part to overwork their hands. I called the attention of the firm to it, and they at once took the occupancy of the premises into their own hands, thereby rendering themselves personally responsible, and told these middlemen that they would have to comply with the hours of the Factory Act, the same as in the head establishment.

26739. Where are the two branch establishments?

One is in Stone-street, Dudley, and the other is in Tower-street, Dudley.

26740. Then do I understand that these middlemen took the work from the head establishment for a certain price, and got it made at whatever price they could?

Yes, and they engaged the hands and apprentices to do the work.

26741. And got it done as cheaply as they liked?

Well, I do not know. I think they might have got it done cheaper, because in the state of work in that part of the Black Country, the amount of labour for females is limited, and I believe you might almost get work done in parts there for any price, but I have not found this firm so hard driving as that.

26742. What I meant rather was, I want to understand whether these middlemen make their profit by the difference between the price they get for the goods and the price that they pay for them?

They do. They are practical men who are thoroughly competent to superintend the making of the garments, and the distributing of the work, which is an art in the tailoring trade.

26743. How did they get the work done; on their own premises, or by out-workers?

They got the work done on their own premises, as far as I know. I investigated this special matter very particularly, because a leading article appeared in the "Birmingham Gazette," of 11th of May, attacking the tailoring trade in Dudley very unfairly; and an article also appeared in the "Lancet," shortly afterwards, attacking the same place. Both these statements are outrageously exaggerated, and positively, in some points, untrue. I do not know if your Lordship would like to have them put in. I have copies of them here, or whether you would like me to point out the portions where they are untrue.

26744. I think you had better point out the portions you wish to draw attention to?

The article in the Gazette begins: "Walsall is the tailor's paradise; Dudley and Wednesbury his purgatory." Every one who has passed through Dudley where stitchers and pressers and overcoat-makers work 'all the hours that God sends' That is absolutely false. They may have worked at these two out places I have mentioned; they may have abused the law for a short time; but I think I heard of it as soon as it began, and I at once put a stop to it. In Coseley, where a large number of the smaller out-workers work for this firm are, I made very close inquiries, and could only learn of some few who had occasionally gone beyond the Act, and who, all of them personally promised that it should not occur again, and they pleaded ignorance of the law when they did it. Working in their own homes they believed that they were not under the restrictions of the Factory Act and Workshop Act.

26745. How do the out-workers come under the Act?

They come under the Act either as domestic workshops employing their own families or employing apprentices, which some of them do.

26746. But supposing only members of the family are engaged?

Then it is a domestic workshop within the meaning of the Act. There is a restriction on their hours of work; but that restriction is open to great abuse, because the hours of work are 10½ a day, between six o'clock in the morning and nine o'clock at night, and they have not got to fix those hours
anyway

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[Continued.]

anyway visibly ; they can change them day by day. This section of the Act which I pointed out to your Lordship before is so totally unworkable that you could not with an army of inspectors control it.

26747. But have you power to enter into anybody's house or dwelling room ?

If they refuse you entrance, you have to get a warrant to enforce that entrance ; but it is not once in five hundred times that you get refused.

26748. Cannot a man and his wife work as long as they please in their own rooms ?

We do not interfere between a husband and wife.

26749. But is it the case that you can interfere ?

The chief inspector says no ; he does not authorise us to do so ; I put the question to him some time ago in the chain and nail trade.

26750. But are we to understand from you that in your opinion the factory hours are not exceeded by these people who work in their own homes ; these outworkers ?

I think only to a small extent. You see they have power in many of these workshops to work 48 days in the year an hour-and-a-half overtime to cover pressure of orders ; and that, I believe, in most well-regulated workshops, will cover what is required. The only thing is in tailoring shops they are slack of work at the beginning of the week very often, and that will lead them to try and put on a little towards the end, on the Friday night ; and these people have admitted to me that in times gone by, before I knew of their existence, they had worked all Friday night, but very rarely.

26751. With regard to these two large establishments you spoke of, do they employ a large number of hands in your own district ?

Messrs. Grainger and Smith, I think, employ about 180 or 190 on the premises, and I daresay they have a hundred outworkers, and probably another hundred in the two branch establishments.

26752. Do they employ learners ?

Yes, a few. I think the last time I inquired they had about 12 female apprentices ; in February they had about 12 female apprentices.

26753. Do you know anything about the prices these people are paid ?

Yes. The outworkers are principally engaged in making boys' knickerbockers, youths' trousers, men's cord trousers, men's moleskins and reefers (they are pea jackets ; they call them reefers in the trade). For making the knickerbockers they get from 2s. to 2s. 9d. ; for the youths' trousers they get 4s. 6d. ; for the cords, 6s. ; and for the moleskins, 6s. 6d. per dozen ; for the reefers they get from 1s. 1d. to 2s. 3d. each. Out of that they have to provide the thread or cotton which will be used ; for men's clothing thread is used, and a pair of trousers will take rather more than a 1½d. worth of thread. They have also to convey the work to and fro. It is principally done at Coseley, that is about three miles from Dudley. The "Lancet" says that they carry about a half hundredweight on their heads at a time in taking this work to and fro. That is exaggeration. I should think about 24 pounds is the weight they would carry.

26754. Do girls carry it ?

Girls carry it. One of the things the workers there complain of is, that they often have to go every day of the week to get work, especially if work is slack, and that they are kept a considerable time at the warehouse in getting out the work ; but they do not complain very much of the prices paid, except in the case of Benjamin Bayliss, of Wednesbury, they will not work for him if they can work for anybody else. He pays worse wages ; his prices, as far as I can find out, are perhaps about three farthings in the sixpence less.

26755. How do these prices compare with what the hands earn that make em on the premises ?

(11.)

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I think

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[Continued.]

I think the hands working off the premises can, if they get a full supply of work, earn more than those who are paid by day work on the premises; but for piecework I think it will amount to the same.

26756. Do outworkers also employ learners?

Yes, the outworkers employ learners, and those learners are the worst treated in the trade. They take them at 14 years of age for two years and pay them nothing. They are only nominally bound. If at the end of one year the apprentices pay a sovereign they are allowed to go; at the end of 18 months they can go if they pay 10 s. They take them professing to teach them the tailoring trade, and all they do is to teach them to put probably trousers and waistcoats together, and do a bit of machining. A practical tailor told me a short time ago that to take one of those as a hand to put on for work would be no use at all; they cannot learn the trade at such an establishment as these outworkers have.

26757. Then, in fact, I understand from you that they give their labour for nothing for a certain time, on condition of learning the trade, and they are not taught the trade?

They are not taught the trade. At the two branch establishments I have spoken of they have apprentices, but the apprentices are rather better off; they only work 12 months for nothing, and after that they are paid, I think, a shilling a week for six months, and then three shillings a week for another six months, and I believe 4 s. 6 d. after that; and they have a much better chance of learning the different branches of the trade, because the best of the work is kept either at the main establishment or goes into the branch establishments. Of course I state this as nearly as I can ascertain it. It has been rather a delicate thing inquiring into a man's trade, and I have not thought it right to inquire beyond a certain point as to what is done and paid.

26758. Are the outworkers mostly men or women?

Women; very rarely any men.

26759. Are they wives of men who are in other trades?

At Coseley there are some large hollowware works and ironworks, and brickworks; and the outworkers are principally the wives and children of the men in these works.

26760. I suppose there is a great deal of competition among them to get work, is there not?

Among themselves there is. They will endeavour to undersell their labour; and if Grainger and Smith had encouraged them to do it, I am quite satisfied they could get their work done probably 15 to 20 per cent. cheaper; but they have set their faces against it; they have wished to pay a fair price, according to the market price of the day.

26761. That is all in the wholesale ready-made clothing?

In the ready-made clothing.

26762. Is there as much ready-made clothing made up in your district as formerly, or more?

More. This firm of ready-made clothing I may say has almost started into existence since I went there; and the firm in Shrewsbury has entirely started within the last three years. The man who is working it is a man who had a model establishment at Newcastle-under-Lyne some years ago.

26763. Are there any foreigners employed?

The middlemen that Messrs. Grainger and Smith have employed were, I believe, two Polish jews; but otherwise there are very few foreigners working for them to my knowledge.

26764. Are they practical tailors?

Yes, I think so.

26765. I understand

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[Continued.]

26765. I understand from you that you claim that you have the right to enter practically anybody's house, anybody's room, where any work is carried on?

Yes; but in the case of a private residence you cannot force an entrance without a warrant, *see* Section 69.

26766. And that the Factory Acts, as far as they regulate the hours of female labour, apply to a married woman, say, within her own room?

No. I think I drew the distinction there. I said that if a married woman was an occupier of that room we do not interfere with the hours of work.

26767. You said you do not; you did not say you could not?

We do not in the case of her being an occupier, because the question stands thus. Can we summons a person for overworking herself; and the chief inspector says not.

26768. But you can summon them if the daughter is over-working?

Yes.

26769. Lord *Thring*.] When you say you can enter any private house by a warrant, what do you mean; I know of no such power?

Under the 68th Section of the Factory and Workshop Act, the inspector has power "to enter, inspect, and examine at all reasonable times, by day and night, a factory and a workshop and every part thereof when he has reasonable cause to believe that any person is employed therein, and to enter by day any place which he has reasonable cause to believe to be a factory or workshop."

26770. Yes, but that is a workshop; that is not a private place?

The definition of a workshop is a place where work is carried on for a profit, by way of trade, or for purposes of gain.

Lord *Thring*.] Yes; but that is not a private house.

26771. *Chairman*.] You would say that any room of a private house where work is carried on for a profit becomes *ipso facto* a workshop?

Yes.

26772. Lord *Thring*.] But will you read the definition of a workshop?

That is in Section 93. "The expression 'workshop' in this Act means (1) any premises or places named in Part II. of the Fourth Schedule to this Act, which are not a factory within the meaning of this Act; (2) also any premises, room, or place not being a factory within the meaning of this Act, in which premises, room, or place, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which premises any manual labour is exercised by way of trade or for purposes of gain in or incidental to the following purposes or any of them; that is to say (a) in or incidental to the making of any article or of part of any article, or (b) in or incidental to the altering, repairing or ornamenting, or finishing of any article, or (c) in or incidental to the adapting for sale of any article, and to which or over which premises, room, or place, the employer of the persons working therein has the right of access or control."

26773. But you cannot enter where there are adult men, for instance?

I think we can.

26774. Where do you find that?

If it is a room or place in which a manufacturing process is carried on. It does not specify that there are only to be protected hands at work; it is "any room."

26775. But you will find, I think, that you cannot enter a room in which there are simply adult men at work?

I do not know where it is forbidden to do so.

26776. I want to ask you where you are authorised to do so. Do I understand you really to say that you can enter any place in which adult men only are employed?

Yes, under the 68th Section, which says, that the inspector has power "to enter, inspect, and examine at all reasonable times, by day and night, a factory and a workshop" (of course Section 69 must be considered).

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26777. And

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Mr. HOARE.

[Continued.]

26777. And a "workshop" is any place, in your opinion, where for instance adult men only are employed?

A workshop is any place in which a trade is carried on for a profit to make or repair or alter or adapt an article for sale.

26778. That I understand is the interpretation you put upon the Act?
Yes.

26779. When you say you can get a warrant to enter any private house, do you mean that a magistrate will grant you a warrant to enter into any place whatever where a single man is working, a carpenter, for instance?

I think so; that is my belief. This warrant is granted to enter premises at an unreasonable time, or where entrance is refused.

26780. But I understand your construction of the Act to be that you can enter any premises whatever where any work whatever is being carried on?

Yes.

26781. And you can enter into a cottage where an old woman is knitting?

Yes; but at the same time there is a special section in the Act which exempts places where work is only intermittently carried on, which is not supposed to be for the sole wage earning of the family; that is exempted under another section.

26782. Then you cannot enter into those places?

You can enter into any place under the section I have read.

26783. Did a magistrate ever grant you a warrant for entering into a place where you believed there was any adult men working?

I have never applied for one; I never found it necessary. Under the section which I have read, the 68th Section, the inspector has power "to enter by day any place which he has reasonable cause to believe to be a factory or workshop."

26784. Granted; but the Committee have always been given to understand that the construction that has been put upon the Act certainly is that you only enter in where you believe protected persons to be; that is obviously no reason why you should enter into any other place?

My view is that you can only ascertain it by going to see; you cannot judge by looking from the outside whether there are only protected persons or not. If you see a workshop you must go inside to ascertain who works there.

26785. And I understand you to say that if you think in my house in Queen's Gate Gardens there are people at work, a magistrate would grant you a warrant to enter in?

I should first endeavour to enter in without applying for a warrant.

26786. On what ground?

On "reasonable cause to believe." In the case you name, I should not have any reasonable belief that there was work going on there.

26787. But if you know nothing about the place, how can you have any reasonable belief in the matter?

If you believed that there was work going on in a particular house that looked like a private house, you would endeavour to ascertain, from somebody in the neighbourhood, whether there was any work done there. For instance, in the case in point, I had no notion that there was any tailoring going on in Coseley until this leading article appeared attacking this sweating in Dudley. I applied to the firm of Grainger and Smith, and they told me they had outworkers. I asked them if they would furnish me with a list of the houses of those outworkers; and to everyone of those houses which they furnished me a list of I went and made inquiries, and when I found out that work was going on, I said I should like to see the workrooms; and in no single instance was I refused permission to enter.

26788. *Chairman.]*

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MR. HOARE.

[Continued.]

26788. *Chairman.*] You could have no power to enter any of these outworkers' houses where the men were earning their living by some other means could you?

I do not quite understand the question.

26789. You mentioned that these outworkers were principally women, and that the men were engaged in other work; in such a case the dwelling house could not possibly come under your jurisdiction, could it; it would be exempted, would it not, under the 98th Section?

It is partially exempted; but the work is carried on in these instances at regular intervals, and it therefore becomes a workshop.

26790. The 98th Section says: "The exercise in a private house or private room by the family dwelling therein, or by any of them, of manual labour for the purposes of gain in or incidental to some of the purposes in this Act in that behalf mentioned, shall not of itself constitute such house or room a workshop where the labour is exercised at irregular intervals, and does not furnish the whole or principal means of living to such family;" would not that section apply practically to all these cases of outworkers where the female members of the family work at this clothing trade in their own rooms, and the husband is employed in some other trade?

No, I think not. That was the section to which I referred when I said that it would apply to such a case as the stocking knitting.

26791. Lord *Thring.*] What does that section exempt?

It exempts many places where, for instance, the daughter of the house does a bit of dressmaking when she can get it, and places, of course, where the stocking knitting to which you allude is carried on by one or two of the women in the house, slight places of that sort; but where an absolute trade is carried on, and probably a large percentage of the money coming into the house is earned by the females working, I do not think that section does exempt them.

26792. Lord *Rothschild.*] Do you get any private information about workshops?

A great deal.

26793. From discontented workmen?

I do; and you are obliged to take their statements for what they are worth, and judge them according to the inquiries you can make. Of course many complaints are sent out of spite by discharged workmen, and those complaints are very common in this particular tailoring trade. You have to study the complaints very carefully before you take action on them.

26794. And do you think that applies also to other parts of England besides your own?

If you mean besides my present district, yes, because I have had experience of it in Lancashire.

26795. Does it also apply to London?

I cannot speak as to London.

26796. Do you know anything about Dewsbury?

No.

26797. That is not in your district?

No; my district is Staffordshire and Shropshire and part of Wales.

26798. *Chairman.*] I should gather from you that the grievance, if any, in your district, as far as the tailoring trade is concerned, is confined principally to the learners to these outworkers?

Yes, to the learners. And, I think, there is another point which is another grievance in the trade, and that is, that an employer having the power to employ these hands for an hour-and-a-half overtime for five days in the week, makes an excessive week's labour for women and girls. I think the overtime might be altered by only allowing it on alternate days, or something of that sort. And, with regard to that overtime, the inspector is placed at a great

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Mr. HOARE.

[Continued.]

disadvantage. The occupiers keeps an overtime register, and, after working overtime, he has to send a leaf out of it to the inspector, to say that the overtime has been worked. An unprincipled employer has only got to omit to send those leaves, and he can make his book last twice as long as it ought to. I think if they were compelled to keep the overtime register on the premises, and register the overtime as it is worked, and produce that book to the inspector, we should have a far better control; and, in addition to that also, I would suggest making it compulsory that they should register their occupancy of the workshop. For instance, at the present moment, I have three tailors who have all given me trouble by working on the sweating system in a small way, outworkers, and because I have looked rather sharply after them they have all moved.

26799. And it will take you some time to find them, perhaps?

Yes. One of those men I found on my second visit working overtime. I prosecuted him for it, and now he has moved again.

26800. You think that they ought to be obliged to furnish you with the address of their workshops?

Yes. An inspector's powers of inspection are immensely enlarged if he knows exactly where to find them; he has not to waste his time going into many places to see whether they have protected hands or not.

26801. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] In the case of the man you prosecuted, who was working overtime?

He had two girls of about 15 and 17; it was about six o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and they ought to have left at four.

26802. You were able to ascertain when they had commenced work?

Yes, they stated that they had commenced work at eight o'clock, Saturday being a half holiday. I had previously cautioned him for precisely the same thing.

26803. With regard to the reasonable suspicion which you mentioned, is it not a necessity in your professional work that you should be guided by what you indirectly hear, and by what you observe?

I consider it so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. EDWARD SMITH, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

26804. *Chairman*.] You are a member of the firm of Granger and Smith? Yes.

26805. What is your business?

Strictly woollen merchants; but we have recently engaged in the clothing. I have prepared a short report if you wish to hear it.

26806. I will ask you a few questions. Where are your places of business? In Dudley.

26807. All of them in Dudley; you have a place in Birmingham, have you not?

Yes.

26808. Clothing also?

Yes; and also woollen cloth.

26809. How long have you been in the clothing trade?

It is about four years ago, in 1884, that I commenced.

26810. You have been in that business elsewhere?

No; we simply took over a bankruptcy concern of customers, and endeavoured

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MR. SMITH.

[Continued.]

endeavoured to develop it, as there was such a need for something of the kind. There being no other work for female labour. The female labour in the Black Country is confined entirely to the nail-making, brick-making, chain-making, and working on the pit bank; and it has ever been a cry in Dudley that if some business could be established which would develop the female labour, it would be a boon to the neighbourhood, and we really undertook it partly on that account, but we lost money for the first two years.

26811. How do you carry on the manufacturing part of the business?

We have a factory, and two branch factories in the town of Dudley, one in King-street, another in Tower-street, and another in Stone-street. The one at King-street is where all the goods are cut out; there are work-rooms there which are under the management of a practical foreman. He gets about 70s. a week; and the girls there (machinists doing the smaller work, boys' suits and trousers) are all paid by piece-work. I can tell you what they earn on an average. The average last week was 12s. 6½d. for 48 girls; some would earn about 7s., the better machinists as much as 22s. or 23s. As a rule they have apprentices under them, but just now there are but two apprentices in the whole of the rooms. Half of those girls 12 months ago were apprentices, but now are out of their time, and earning money at the rate of 9s. or 10s. per week.

26812. When you speak of apprentices, were they regularly indentured?

No, they are not. They are placed first under a girl, a machinist. The apprentice assists the machinist and possibly increases her earnings, and at the end of 12 months she knows her work sufficiently to take it on.

26813. She gets nothing for the first 12 months?

Generally 1 s. per week.

26814. Then if she was a machine hand that was assisted by one of these learners, her wages would really be the wages of both of them; the wages would be the pay for the labour of both of them?

Yes; but of course in the case of anyone apprenticed, whatever trade they are in, they must give a certain time to gain a knowledge of the trade.

26815. Quite so; I only asked you the fact. Is all the work carried on there by girls in your principal establishments?

And pressers. There is a foreman presser with boys under him. They earn from 5s. to 10s. At Stone-street the factory is under the management of a foreman who is paid 4l. a week, the foreman presser about 33s., and the foreman fitter perhaps about 30s.

26816. That is one of the branch establishments?

Yes. There all the rest are machine hands paid by the week, excepting the button-holers who are paid by the piece. Machinists will get as much as from 12s. to 15s. a week, others 9s., and improvers get 5 s.

26817. Are they all paid by the piece or by the time?

They are all paid there by the time, except the button-hole workers and the vest hands, because they have an opportunity of making money by the piece.

26818. How are the button-holers paid?

I do not know, but I have here the prices that button-hole hands earned. In fact, there were two that I interviewed yesterday; one earned 16s. 3d. and another 19s. 1½d. a-week.

26819. Are both the branch establishments superintended by foremen?

Now they are; they were not twelve months ago; last year they were not.

26820. You have heard what Mr. Hoare said on that subject?

Yes.

26821. Is it correct?

Not entirely. They were always our premises; it was only a system we had of paying them. They were our premises, our machines; and they were under a month's notice from the first day we engaged them; we simply paid them by piece-

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Mr. SMITH.

[Chairman.]

work; when there was so much talk about the sweating we desired to change it.

26822. They took the work out from you at a certain price?

Yes, the work was sent from our cutters down there, and they were paid at a certain price.

26823. And now it is all directly under your own control?

Yes.

26824. Lord *Rothschild*.] Do you find that these workmen earn higher wages now than they did before?

No, they probably earned more. We pay the foreman 4*l.*; and he was one of the sweaters, you might call him, before.

26825. They probably earned more before, you say?

Yes, because we receive a little profit ourselves.

26826. *Chairman*.] I do not quite follow that?

We pay all the girls direct ourselves; we pay the foreman; and then, of course, we reckon the garments to cost the same as they did before, and so a profit naturally comes to the firm; we can make better terms with the girls.

26827. You do not know what the foreman's profits were before?

No, we could not say.

26828. You do not know what they paid their hands?

Yes, we know what they paid their hands, judging by what we pay and the girls being satisfied. We have the same girls now.

26829. Lord *Rothschild*.] Are they more satisfied than they were?

Yes, because they prefer to treat with us direct.

26830. *Chairman*.] Is all the cutting-out done at the main premises?

Yes.

26831. And then a great deal of it is made up by out-workers?

Yes. I should think we have 200 out-workers?

26832. Where do they reside?

At Coseley mostly; some in other parts of the Black Country, but the majority at Coseley.

26833. How do you manage with them?

They come to the work perhaps, sending two or three times a week for it, and delivering it perhaps every day. On Fridays they are paid.

26834. Paid by the piece, I suppose?

Yes, entirely.

26835. Can you give us the rate of prices?

The outwork consists of all the simpler kinds, cotton cords and moleskins, and boy's and men's trousers, cheap men's and boy's suits, men's common trousers. Prices paid for the cheaper kinds of boy's suits, 2*s.*; the coat and vest, 1*s.* 6*d.*, and trousers, 6*d.*; men's suits, 2*s.* 9*d.*; moleskin trousers, 6½*d.*; men's corsets, 6*d.*; boys, 4½*d.*; youths, 5*d.*; nickers, 2*s.* 6*d.* per dozen. The earnings of these outworkers naturally vary. Some work a part of their time, filling in spare moments, others entirely; some have helpers, others have not.

26836. What do you mean by "helpers," learners?

Yes, they would have a helper. I have taken some of the wages that were earned the last four or five weeks.

26837. That would be that you have taken them from themselves, I suppose?

Money that we paid them; I made inquiries of the manager as to whether they were working alone, or whether they were likely to have helpers, so as to get the information as fully as I could, and also the character of the people; because in a great measure, in the case of these workers where their parents or their husbands

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[Continued.]

husbands are out of work, or something of the kind; it is a great relief then to the home, and we naturally try to select those cases before others.

26838. What would be the average?

Two sisters, named Buxton, earned 19*s.* 3*d.*, 11*s.* 10*d.*, 15*s.* 8*d.*, and 13*s.* 3*d.* A girl named Martha Cook and sister, with one girl-helper, was paid 31*s.* 6*d.*, 29*s.* 3*d.*, 32*s.*, and 31*s.* 3*d.*

26839. Do you consider those a fair sample?

Quite so.

26840. Because you said that you inquired of your manager whether these people were working alone or employed help. and so on?

Simply because he pays them each week, and I thought it would be more interesting to know something about them.

26841. I mean that you cannot speak with any degree of certainty on that point, I suppose?

I can, because I am there continually myself; I spend two or three hours in that business every day.

26842. What I mean is this: One of your outworkers comes and takes the work and brings it back again and gets a certain sum of money, 20*s.* or 30*s.*, or whatever it may be, but you have not means of ascertaining how many people have been employed in making that up?

No, I have no direct means.

26843. How far is Coseley from you?

I consider it two miles, but I heard Mr. Hoare say three. I do not think it is three, the direct path the girls usually take.

26844. Do these girls carry very heavy loads of clothing?

Not more than ten pair at a time.

26845. And they come several times a week, I think you told us?

Yes, or send messengers.

26846. Would it not be more convenient to them if they came once a week?

They would not be able to take the quantity that they would want to do to make the wage.

26847. And they have developed no plan of how they could get the work brought to Coseley once a week and distributed amongst them?

No, not without additional expense.

26848. I should have thought it would be a saving?

An idea of the sort once occurred to us, but we have not carried it out yet.

26849. As to these learners and apprentices, do they all remain in the clothing trade after they are out of their time; out of their year?

Many of these are with us, others that have been with us are now outworkers; that is to say, some that were in the factory first as apprentices, then as machinists, have married and now take out work.

26850. Is there any stipulation that they shall be taught the trade thoroughly, the various branches of the trade, during the period in which they are working for nothing?

The working for nothing for 12 months refers to the King-street establishment, where the girls are paid by piecework when they know the work; but at this other factory where they make coats and vests, the apprentices are taken under different terms; they are brought by their mothers at 14, who guarantee that they are able to keep them during the two years. They are apprenticed then for two years, simply verbally, and are paid 6*d.* a week by the girl under whom they are working. At the end of 12 months they are paid by the firm 1*s.* per week the first six months, 3*s.* per week the second six months.

26851. That is not an answer to my question, which was, whether there is any agreement or stipulation that they shall be taught the trade thoroughly?

(11.)

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No,

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Mr. SMITH.

[Continued.]

No, not by us ; but the fact is that most of them are kept on till they learn it ; but their trade, as far as the coat trade, is simply that of a machinist.

26852. I presume that this employment of these learners enables the clothing to be made very much cheaper than it otherwise could ?

Yes, simply because the skill is found by the foreman, the fitter, the pressers, the binders and the finishers.

26853. All your business is ready-made as far as the clothing is concerned ?

Yes, as far as the clothing is concerned.

26854. Is that for home consumption ?

Principally ; it is entirely consumed by the working classes the garments we make.

26855. Do you sell retail ?

Not at all.

26856. You sell to the trade generally ?

Yes.

26857. Do you take any contracts ?

Yes, for unions, contracts of the cheaper class.

26858. And carry them out in the same way ?

Yes.

26859. Is there anything further you would like to say ?

Nothing, beyond the fact that this trade is a great boon to the district.

26860. I was going to ask you how long have you been in the district ?

Personally I have been in it 20 years. Our principal trade is the piece trade, supplying tailors with cloth.

26861. And you consider that the establishment of your clothing factories has had a beneficial effect in giving employment to the women ?

Yes, we have ample testimony of that from visitors, magistrates, and others, since this agitation has been started.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, that this Committee be adjourned to To-morrow,
Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 10^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of DERBY.

Lord CLINTON.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven
and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord MONKSWELL.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. EDMUND JOHN SHANNON, is called in; and having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

26862. *Chairman.*] ARE you a partner in the firm of John Shannon and Sons?

Yes, I am the only one.

26863. What is your business?

Wholesale clothiers.

26864. Where is your place of business?

Walsall.

26865. How long have you been established there in that business?

My father about 50 years; he had a drapery business; he was in the wholesale clothing, but not to the extent that I am at present; I have developed the trade more than he did.

26866. Do you still carry on the drapery business too?

I disposed of it; I sold it.

26867. Your business now is entirely ready-made clothing?

Entirely.

26868. Do you make all the clothing on your own premises?

We have one Jew working for us who is summoned to attend here, named Harris Davis.

26869. What do you do on your own premises?

We manufacture clothing, all classes, men's, youths', juveniles'.

26870. How many hands do you employ?

Between 800 and 900.

26871. On your premises, how many?

About 700 on the premises; we have two other places outside.

26872. Are the numbers you have given us mostly females?

Mostly females; I include in that, of course, our warehouses; we have 137 men there.

26873. My question referred rather to the operatives?

About 800 in the manufacturing.

26874. What class of goods do you manufacture?

All classes; from men's suits from 30 s. down to as low as 14 s.

(11.

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26875. What

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Mr. SHANNON.

[Continued.]

26875. Can you explain how you carry on the business in your own factory? By sub-division of labour, by machining and basting, binding, and felling.

26876. You have a number of rooms, I suppose?

Yes, it is divided into four departments.

26877. Just explain how it is done?

Men's trousers, coats, vests, and juvenile department.

26878. Are those departments superintended by a foreman, or how are they superintended?

Each by a skilled foreman.

26879. How are the foremen paid, by a salary?

Paid a weekly wage.

26880. And how do you pay the hands, by time?

All piece-work; that is the system that obtains in the trade, piece-work.

26881. But all the hands in your factory work direct for you, and are paid direct by you, I presume?

Decidedly.

26882. There is no intervention of any middleman between you and them?

None whatever; they are all paid by the firm on Saturdays between one and two o'clock.

26883. Could you give us the prices that you are paying for these various articles?

Yes, we have various classes, a very large assortment; it would take me some time to give them all.

26884. What would be the highest paid class?

Six shillings per suit, worsted skirted jackets; then the sack suits range down to 3 s. 3 d., that is tweed not bound.

26885. Men's suits?

Yes.

26886. What would you be paid for juvenile suits?

We pay for juvenile suits from 1 s. up to 2 s. 6 d.; of course there is an infinite variety of juvenile suits. We turn out as many as one hundred different samples per season, everyone a different style, and the price would vary for each style, more or less.

26887. Can you tell us what your hands would earn?

I have brought some books with me; I thought that would be the best criterion.

26888. Would you give us what you consider a fair average for the different description of work, or, at any rate, the highest and the lowest?

I have in this book, in what we call our large machine room, where there are some 200 machines running, one girl's average for three years; for 1886 it is 12 s. 5 d., for 1887, 16 s. 1 d., and for 1888, 17 s. 8½ d. Another one averages, in 1886, 10 s. 9 d., in 1887, 13 s. 4½ d., and in 1888, 14 s. 8½ d.

26889. Would that be about the highest?

No, there are some higher than that. Then there is a younger one, a girl that in 1886 was just learning the trade, her average for 1886 was 4 s. 6 d., for 1887, 6 s. 2 d., and for 1888, 7 s. 4½ d. Another one, in 1886, averaged 11 s. 3 d., in 1887, 12 s. 8½ d., and in 1888, 16 s.

26890. I do not think you need multiply them further?

Of course it is divided in this way. I told you the departments, that large machine-room; juvenile machinists much about the same. Here is the case of a girl who has only been two years; in 1887 her average was 8 s. 1 d., in 1888 it was 9 s. 5 d. Another girl in 1887, 8 s. 2 d., in 1888, 10 s. 4 d. Here is another;

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[Continued.]

another; in 1887, 4 s. 8½ d., in 1888, 6 s. 7 d. These are young girls, of course, who have to learn. I may say that the principle on which we take them is as apprentices for 12 months.

26891. Are they regularly apprenticed?

They are apprenticed for 12 months; they have a month's trial to see if they are adapted to the trade, and if so, they are put on. That is the trial engagement form (*producing a book*); that gives all the particulars.

26892. What do you call this book?

Trial Engagement Book.

26893. And you take these girls on for a month to see if they will suit?

Yes, and then the foreman has to hand in a report, which is the counterfoil to that.

26894. Supposing it is satisfactory, what then?

Then they are engaged; there is an engagement then in another book for 12 months.

26895. What are the terms of their engagement?

Two shillings for the first 12 months. In that time they learn all branches of the trade; the first three months trousers, the second three months waistcoats, and the last six months coats. So that, like *Gil Blas*, they have three strings instead of one to their bow.

26896. Do you mean that by the end of the year they have an opportunity of becoming skilled hands in every branch of the trade?

Not skilled; it takes fully three years to make a skilled machinist; but they are able to take on certain classes of work, and they improve each year.

26897. The second year, what will they earn?

I have books, showing that the second year a girl will go straight from her apprenticeship, and, according to her quickness and her aptitude, she will earn, in some cases, 6 s., in some, 8 s. per week, and each year she will improve up to 14 s. or 15 s. We can show an average as high as 18 s. and 20 s.

26898. At the end of three years you would call her a skilled hand?

Yes.

26899. And then she would be able to earn from 15 s. to 20 s.?

I would hardly put it as high as that; I would say 14 s. to 16 s.

26900. Do they find their own materials, thread, cotton, and so on?

They find their own sewing trimmings, but I am counting that in the average; I am making allowance for it.

26901. What do you allow for it?

That depends upon the amount of work done, and the sewings used.

26902. What would it amount to in the girls' wages, do you suppose; say that a girl was earning 14 s., what would be the deductions for sewings?

I cannot answer that. I see, in my book, there is a girl who earned 19 s. 11½ d. last week; the trimmings were 2 s. 5 d. deducted; net amount, 17 s. 6 d.

26903. You have given the amount of deduction in the case of a girl who earned 19 s. 11½ d.; supposing the girl was earning 14 s. or 16 s.; I presume the amount of deduction would be about the same?

No, it would be less. Here is one earning 17 s. 9 d.; the trimmings in that case were 1 s. 11 d. Another, 17 s., trimmings, 2 s. It varies according to the class of work they have to do; there is no fixed sum.

26904. But the figures that you have given the Committee, as I understand you, were the net earnings?

The net earnings.

26905. Have these girls, the machinists, to superintend the learners?

The plan we have adopted now is this: a learner is put under a skilled machinist; and I should say that we have made a different arrangement; now

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Mr. SHANNON.

[Continued.]

we have a sort of sliding scale, and a girl gets 2 s. if the machinist she is under earns 15 s. or less ; if the machinist she is under earns over 15 s., the learner gets 3 s. ; if she earns over a pound, the learner gets 4 s.

26906. Then if the learner is getting 2 s., and the machinist is getting 15 s., 17 s. would be the amount paid for the labour of the two ?

If the machinist earned 15 s., that 2 s. would have to be deducted ; the net amount would be 13 s. in that case.

26907. Who pays the learner ?

The machinist.

26908. Would the learner's wages have to be deducted from those amounts, 19 s. and so on, that you have mentioned ?

Certainly. Of course not in all cases ; we only have a certain number of learners.

26909. Do you employ any outworkers ?

We do all our finishing outside.

26910. How do you arrange for that ?

It is given out twice a day in the outworking department

26911. That is paid by piece, too, I suppose ?

Yes.

26912. How do you pay for it ; what are the prices ?

I could not say what ; but they earn very good wages.

26913. You do not know what the prices are ?

I do not know.

26914. What do you mean by " finishing " ?

Doing all the work that cannot be done by the machine.

26915. Is that given out to women ?

That is given out to women.

26916. Do they live in Walsall ?

Yes, in Walsall.

26917. And how do they get the work done, do you know ?

Themselves.

26918. They do it themselves, you say ?

Yes. A great many of them, perhaps, are girls who have been with us and have got married, and want to do a little of this to supplement their husband's resources.

26919. Do you generally employ the same outworkers for a length of time ?

Yes, more so than inside. We have great difficulty with our girls, because so many of them get married young.

26920. Do these prices that you pay for the finishing vary very much from time to time ?

Never.

26921. Do you mean that you are paying the same now that you were 10 years ago ?

Certainly.

26922. They never vary ?

They do not vary. I may say that though there has been a great shrinkage in values, the suit which was sold 10 to 15 years ago at 30 s. is sold now at 20 s., consequently the manufacturer has to make a great deal more stuff to keep up his return ; but the cost of production has not decreased.

26923. Do you mean that the cost of production has not been decreased by the introduction of machinery ?

It has been cheapened by the introduction of machinery, but the price paid for it, the cost of production, has not decreased to any sensible extent.

26924. I do

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[Continued.]

26924. I do not quite understand. You say that the cost of production has been decreased by the use of machinery, and at the same time you say it has not?

The production of the clothing has been cheapened by the machinery, but the labour has not.

26925. The labour remains the same, but the other factors in the cost of producing have been diminished?

Decidedly; in fact 1,250 *l.* worth of stuff now has to be sold, where formerly 1,000 *l.* would have been.

26926. Can you tell the Committee how many apprentices you have now in your employment?

I could not, except by looking it up. I have not the materials here to enable me to answer the question.

26927. Do you know at all what proportion they generally bear to the skilled hands?

I do not. We need a constant succession; of course we lose some. So many get married, as I observed. Just when they get useful they leave us.

26928. That would not affect my question. I want to know the proportion they bear to the skilled hands?

I do not know.

26929. Is the cutting out done by men?

By men, by machine shears and steam knives.

26930. Are they paid by piece also?

They are paid by the week.

26931. Then I understand you have two branch establishments, did you say?

One under our own care across the road from our factory. We have only one Jew that works for us.

26932. Where is his place of business?

In Hatherton-street, Walsall.

26933. I suppose he takes the work from you at a certain price?

At a certain price.

26934. It having been cut out on your premises?

Yes.

26935. And he fulfils his contract in any way he pleases, I suppose?

No. I am frequently in his place to see that proper sanitary arrangements are observed.

26936. Do you know whether he makes it all up on the premises?

All of it. They are our premises.

26937. Does he employ outworkers?

No.

26938. How would you know if he did or did not?

Because I have frequently been in his place.

26939. Do you know what prices he pays, or is that no business of yours?

None at all.

26940. You could not speak about it?

I could not. I know he pays day work.

26941. You have not told us what your outworkers can earn; you said you could not give me the prices, but that they earn good wages?

Yes.

26942. Do you know what they earn?

I could not say. I have heard our foreman say that some of them are making 15 *s.* and 16 *s.* It depends on the supply of trade altogether.

(11.)

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26943. Do

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[Continued.]

26943. Do they find their own material, thread and cotton, and so on, or do you supply it?

They find it, at least I am not quite certain.

26944. And all your outworkers reside in Walsall?

All in Walsall.

26945. Is there any information you would like to give the Committee which you have not given already?

I have jotted down a few things here. One of the great drawbacks of the clothing trade, I consider, is that it has practically to be done in four to five months.

26946. That is the ready-made clothing trade?

Yes. This necessitates a large amount of overtime being worked, with corresponding short time when the pressure is over.

26947. Earl of *Derby*.] Why has it to be done in four or five months?

Because from Easter to Whitsuntide is the time when people want all the goods, and we prepare our samples before Christmas for summer, and our travellers start out on the 10th of January.

26948. Can you explain why it is that the pressure is so great at that particular time of the year and no other?

Because it is holiday time; people will have new clothing for Easter and for Whitsuntide, and they want it all in five minutes.

26949. *Chairman*.] Is all your trade for home consumption?

All for home consumption. We are obliged to keep the army up to fighting attitude even in quiet times to meet contingencies when they arise.

26950. What do you mean by that?

That we could do with a much smaller number if we could get it more evenly distributed. We never know when we may be inundated with orders, and but short time is allowed for execution. This naturally brings down the amount of wages earned. For instance, a girl might earn very good wages one six months and but poor wages the next six, which would make the mean average low. For instance, wholesale clothiers could find sufficient work to run all the overtime the Factory Act allows from Easter to Whitsuntide, but the employes cannot stand it. There is no doubt that so much overtime is injurious to health, especially when working under bad sanitary arrangements; and there is no doubt that most of the middle-men are totally regardless of sanitary arrangements. It is highly important that factory inspectors should have the fullest possible latitude to enforce the best sanitary arrangements they can. The Factory Act prescribes a certain amount of cubic space for each individual worker, but disregards altogether the sanitary conditions, such as the supply of pure air and water, two of the great necessities of life. Good ventilation is most important, and should be insisted upon in all places where numbers of people congregate; and as most of the labour is female labour, and these girls are likely to become mothers, it is most important to study their health. Females are naturally averse to draughts; they seem to feel the slightest draught acutely, and suffer from toothache, neuralgia, and cold feet, conditions which to a great extent are set up by the very disregard of the laws of health, I mean a good supply of pure air. I mention these matters because they are problems not difficult to solve. The question of wages or prices to be paid for work is a difficult problem to solve. Work can be produced cheaper and under more favourable conditions in some districts than in others. Clothing ought to be produced cheaper in large factories than in small sweating dens. In the former, motive power, as opposed to treadle, is used, giving a clear gain of some 500 stitches per minute (this is an approximate figure, and is given as such). My opinion as that superior machinery, efficient organisation, a perfect system, and well devised premises, with due attention to sanitary arrangement, under proper inspection, would do much to discourage sweating. But unless the power of the Act is extended to

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[Continued.]

to include domestic workshops, where people are allowed to work all the hours God sends, and under the vilest sanitary conditions, the objects named would be defeated.

26951. You are speaking now of the clothing trade generally I presume?
Yes.

26952. Throughout the county?
Yes.

26953. You lay considerable stress upon the fact that the bulk of your work has to be done in about four or five months?

When I say four to five months I mean that the great pressure comes on the trade then.

26954. That is owing to the demand, as you have explained. Do you see any way in which trade could be so arranged that that could be altered?

Only when clothes wearers will have some sympathy for clothes makers, and not insist upon instant performance, getting measured for a suit one day and demanding that it shall be sent home the next.

26955. That is a question which can be effected only by the consumer?

By the consumer, and by the observance of holiday times in this country. People will have new clothing at holiday times, Easter and Whitsuntide.

26956. What is the law now with regard to overtime?

I meant to mention that seasons' trades (and ours is a season's trade) are allowed to work 48 days, from 8 to 9.30. That is a bad arrangement, because the workers are fagged and jaded out, and you get less out of them the next day.

26957. You think the overtime should be limited?
I do.

26958. Earl of *Derby*. When you say it is allowed, allowed by whom?

Allowed by the Factory Act. The inspector mentioned yesterday that you are supplied with a book with special forms, and one has to be posted each time; but that may be abused.

26959. *Chairman*.] You think that the overtime ought to be restricted?

There requires a certain amount of conscientious work. The inspector said that it was likely to be abused; people might neglect to send on the forms and consequently work more.

26960. That is another question. I presume you would think that the law ought to be obeyed as it is?

Yes, certainly.

26961. But also I understood you to say that you think it ought to be altered?

That is only my opinion. I think that would be best; if manufacturers were not allowed to do it it would be better.

26962. Then I understood you to say that you think the factory inspector ought to have some sanitary authority also?

I do think so.

26963. Lord *Monckswell*.] When you gave instances of girls' pay, did you take those instances from the pay they got when they were working ordinary hours, or when they were working overtime?

I took them from the average book without selecting; these are averages given throughout the year, not taken for one week, but the mean average for the year.

26964. Sometimes they would be working overtime, and sometimes they would be working slack time?

Yes. We could now do with a night shift as well as a day one; we could get plenty of trade now for the next month.

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[Continued.]

26965. I do not understand what you said about people wanting to be measured and have things sent home at once; I thought yours was a ready-made trade?

We have a ready-made trade, and also a special department.

26966. By "special department," do you mean where clothes are made to measure?

We send out pattern cards from which orders can be taken.

26967. Then do you mean that the great pressure is not in your ready-made branch, but in the special?

No; it is just as much in the ready-made branch as in the other.

26968. How is that?

Because we receive large orders, and we do not anticipate sufficiently early.

26969. Can you not keep a large stock in hand of ready-made clothes?

We dare not anticipate. A traveller carries five to six hundredweight of luggage, and some hundreds of samples; we cannot obviously stock to all those, or we should soon be ruined.

26970. The taste may alter, you mean?

The very thing in stock is the thing they would not order, very likely, so that there would be a lot of jobbing up.

26971. So that you have to wait till you find out from your travellers what particular article it is that people require?

To a great extent that is so. We anticipate certain lines, but we cannot stock everything; and the very thing you do not stock is the very thing that the run is upon; and the more you stock at the end of a season the worse you make it, and the more jobbing up there will be.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

EDWARD PUGH, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

26972. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business or trade?

A tailor.

26973. Are you working in your trade now?

Yes.

26974. In Birmingham?

Yes, working in a shop.

26975. Have you been engaged in making any inquiries in Birmingham as to what is called sweating?

Yes.

26976. Were you a member of a committee that was appointed to do so?

Yes.

26977. What was the committee?

A committee formed of *bond fide* members of the Tailors' Amalgamated Society.

26978. Appointed by the Tailors' Amalgamated Society?

Yes, at their own expense.

26979. To inquire into the sweating in Birmingham?

Yes.

26980. Did they make any report?

They did.

26981. To whom?

To the head office in Manchester.

26982. And

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[*Continued.*]

26982. And you visited a great number of places, I presume, in Birmingham? Yes.

26983. What do you understand by sweating; what do you call a sweater? I call a sweater a man who takes work out from a firm at a given rate, and supplies it to other parties below him to manufacture it.

26984. A man who is a middleman, in fact? Just so.

26985. Whether he is a working man himself, or not? Just so; that is the general meaning of the term, a sweater.

26986. Is the clothing trade in Birmingham largely carried on under those conditions; are there many of these middlemen?

Yes, there are a great many. Of course we had but one week to visit them, and we visited 129 operatives that employed labour, that were in our sense of the term sweaters.

26987. Men working themselves, but employing others?

They might work themselves in manufacturing it, and get others to help them.

26988. As to the sanitary condition of those places, what have you to say?

Some of them were good; others were not. I went round with the special commissioner of the "Lancet," and if you have read that report, that is exactly how I found it.

26989. We have not that report; you must tell the Committee what you found. You need not describe every place you visited; but you say that some of them were very bad?

Yes.

26990. What would you call very bad?

Will you allow me to refer?

26991. Yes, certainly; you can give us a description of one or two, if you like?

I think this is about the worst case that I can mention——

26992. You need not mention the people's names?

This is a portion of the "Lancet" Commissioners' Report; this is the best I can give, because I found it correct. It mentions one street where the entrance was very bad, and underneath the workshop there were eight privies immediately underneath, and also washhouses; and if they wanted a little fresh air, by opening the window of that shop they would not get the purest.

26993. How many people were working in this shop?

There were eight.

26994. Eight men?

Eight men. They employed women, but there were none at the time I went there.

26995. What were the premises where the shop was situated?

It was up an opening in one of the streets, a narrow entry approached by a kind of steps, with no front to them.

26996. How did it come to have eight privies under the shop?

That, of course, I cannot explain.

26997. Do you mean belonging to the shop?

No, they belonged to the houses in the street; of course they rented it to suit their convenience.

26998. And would that be about the worst place that you came across?

Yes, I really believe so. But there was another case where we found several people, both female and male, working together in one room, where the bed was open, and the overnight utensils were exposed, and there was a large fire

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blazing; there was one window in the room, and there were two young men pressing, and, of course, a girl to come in and out of the room to fetch the things from the presser.

26999. Only two men working in the room?

There were two men pressing, and I think there was a lad assisting with the irons, so that they should lose no time.

27000. What was the objection you had to that place?

I consider it a bad state of things to allow such a condition.

27001. Do you mean that the room was not large enough?

Yes; and besides that, they should have a proper workshop; there was no paper up to signify that it was a workshop.

27002. Lord *Clinton*.] Was this in a bedroom?

Yes, in a top attic.

27003. Do these two men live there?

They are paid day work; they are hands employed by the people who live in the house; it is not a workshop in the proper sense of the term, but the man's own house.

27004. *Chairman*.] You mean that the occupier of the house employed these two men to work in that bedroom?

Yes; and there were eight other parties in another room; there were two rooms they were working in, but the one I saw the bed in was simply for the pressers, but that did not prevent the females coming in and out to fetch their work.

27005. Why should they prevent it?

I should not think it a proper thing for females to come in when a bed was lying open and the overnight utensils exposed.

27006. Do you know who slept in the bed-rooms?

I could not say.

27007. Lord *Clinton*.] But you knew that these men were hired to work in that room?

Yes; I had a conversation with them personally.

27008. *Chairman*.] Speaking generally, do you think that the sanitary condition of these places is fairly good?

Yes, I do; the majority of the workshops are good; they are off the premises, and well ventilated.

27009. But there are some that are very bad?

Just so; those that are in private houses.

27110. How did you find out these places?

Being a resident, I partly knew them, and, having lived in the district, I knew some of the people, and they gave me great assistance.

27111. And how did you get into them; for instance, this place you have just mentioned?

With regard to that place I had no difficulty till I got up, because I asked a little child if her father was in, and she said "Yes, he is upstairs," and she wanted to call him, but I said, "Never mind, do not trouble him; I daresay he is busy; I will go up," and so I did. There was no interference with me till I got up; and, of course, I was not a very pleasant visitor then.

27112. What is your committee composed of; who are the members of it?

Shall I give the names?

27113. Yes.

I could not say without reference to the time, because they change quarterly.

27114. But I understood that you and some others made a special visit to these places?

Only

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[Continued.]

Only myself and another gentleman named Mr. Gilpin. We were appointed by the committee formed of the Amalgamated Society of Journeymen Tailors in Birmingham, to do so.

27015. You reported to them?

Yes, we reported to them.

27016. And do you know what became of your report to them?

Yes, it is in our club-house now.

27017. And then they reported to the head office in Manchester?

Yes, of which our secretary is on the executive.

27018. Could you get a copy of that report for the Committee?

Yes; if I had a day I could get it.

27019. Perhaps you would get a copy and send it up?

Yes, I could easily do that. I would have got a great deal more information had I had more time, but I had not two clear days. I went to work at my trade, and I had to sacrifice a great deal to do even this.

27020. Did you make any report to the medical officer of health?

No, I did not.

27021. You had no communication with him?

Yes, I had; I went to see him, and I promised that I would furnish him a report; but I had instructions not to do so afterwards. I simply waited on him, and I volunteered a statement personally.

27022. Instructions from your society, you mean?

Yes; from my superior officers in the society. Of course I was simply on the committee; and of course I had to inform them of everything that occurred, and when they heard what I said, they thought that it would not be a benefit to the Tailors' Association, that I should furnish a report to the medical officer of health. I had the report in my pocket, and I showed it him, but he wanted me to tabulate them.

27023. We need not go into that; as I understand you, you had some communication with Dr. Hill, but your society objected to your giving him a report?

Yes.

27024. Can you give the Committee any information as to the prices that are paid to these middlemen, and the prices they pay to the working people?

I understand that the prices in the largest firm are 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. 6 d. for coats; waistcoats vary from 7½ d. upwards. I could not exactly state the amount that they go up to, but I know a great deal of them are made for 9 d.; trousers that are made for the firm of which you had one of the partners yesterday, are 6½ d. to 1 s. 3 d.; the 6½ d. trousers are principally the lowest stock, the commonest, and the 1 s. 3 d. trousers are for the bespoke department. For that they have to find their own sewings entirely, also soap.

27025. Are these prices that you have given me the prices paid by the wholesale house to the men who are working for them?

Yes; outside.

27026. To these middlemen?

Yes.

27027. Then the middlemen have to find their own materials?

Yes, they have to find their own sewings; and in the coat line they have not only to find their own sewings and the soap that they require to stiffen it, but they have to even buy the wadding with which to build the garment.

27028. Then do you know what these middlemen pay those who are working for them?

No, I could not say, because I have very little knowledge of that particular branch, excepting what I found out these last two days. I work for the principal firm in the town, and it is in that capacity that I know most.

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[Continued.]

27029. You do not know the wages that these people working for sweaters get?

No; but I am in communication with parties in Birmingham who will send me the information in case it is required, but I have had no time to get it. Everything I have done hitherto has been at the expense of our society.

27030. Do the men who work for these sweaters belong to your society?
Some do, and some of the sweaters were members.

27031. You have no objection to that?

They had been members prior to becoming sweaters, and of course we have the greatest objection to their doing anything of the kind.

27032. Would the prices that you have mentioned be the same prices as would be paid to men working on the premises?

Oh, dear no. With regard to the prices paid on the premises, I do not know a manufacturer that pays them piecework on the premises. I do know they pay a machinist 15 s. a week, and they pay them for those that are finishing $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for that 15 s. per week they have to machine 24 pair per day.

27033. As a rule do these large establishments, these first-class people, get all their work done on their own premises?

No.

27034. They get some done on their own premises and some done off?

Yes.

27035. As I understand you, they pay more for the work that is done on their own premises than they do for the work out?

The reverse.

27036. The same class of work?

The same class of work.

27037. What would they pay for work on their own premises?

I say they pay 15 s. for a machinist; I am speaking of one particular firm, and they pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. for finishing prices. They have to do a certain quantity otherwise it is not a day's work.

27038. As to vests and coats?

With regard to vests and coats I have mentioned that they are from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. 6 d.

27039. Those are the figures you have already given us; but I am asking you now what they would pay for the work done on their own premises?

They would be paid day-work on the premises.

27040. What would they be paid?

I could not say, not with certainty.

27041. What do you work at yourself, what class of goods?

Best trade; first-class, for a firm that do pay everything according to the statement.

27042. What are the statement prices?

I have them; they require a great deal of consideration.

27043. Will you let me look at those statement prices?
(*The Witness hands in a book to the Chairman.*)

27044. When was this log or statement of prices fixed?

That has been in force for a number of years.

27045. This is printed in 1880, I see?

That is a new edition, but the statement was some time before that; a number of years before that.

27046. It has not varied?

It has not varied; but though that is the statement of the town, there are not two firms who pay alike.

27047. How

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[Continued.]

27047. How is that ; how do you account for that ?

Because they get people to work outside, and it is to their advantage to do so, because they isolate them from their fellow-shopmen ; consequently they send and say, " You can do it if you like at the reduced rate."

27048. They get the work done cheaper outside ?

Most certainly.

27049. Then, in fact, the log is not adhered to ?

It is not adhered to in any particular shop. There is very little difference in the firm I have mentioned and another firm ; but there is a great deal of difference between all the first-class firms that consider they do pay to the log.

27050. They do on their own premises, I suppose ?

They have not all got workshops.

27051. Have some of them got no workshops at all ?

Some have got none at all.

27052. They get all their work made outside ?

All their work is given out.

27053. How long have you been working in Birmingham ?

I have been working there now five years ; but with the exception of four years that I worked in London. I mean that I worked there three years previous to the four years that I was in London.

27054. Are there more of these sweaters or sub-contractors now than there used to be ?

Yes, more now than there have been at any previous time ; and the prices are lower.

27055. Are there more women employed in the trade than there used to be ?

I could not say. There are more women employed in the first-class firms.

27056. Are these first-class firms, as you call them, these firms that do some of the work on their own premises, in the habit of advertising that all the work is done on their own premises ?

Yes. I have a copy of one such advertisement here (*producing it, and handing it to the Chairman*).

27057. This does not say absolutely that all the work is done on the premises, though it would lead anybody to infer that it is ?

No, it does not say that.

27058. In your opinion, is it the practice of these firms to let it be understood by the customers that the work is done on their own premises when it is not done on their own premises ?

Yes, I believe it is the wish of the whole of the masters to let the general public understand that they are free from any contagion whatever through working outside. And then some of the shops that we have to work in are far more filthy than some of the domestic places of the outworkers.

27059. You mean that some of the large shops are filthy ?

Yes, filthy in its extreme, and there is so little inspection. I worked for a firm, before I went to work for this one where I now am, for three years, and during that time there were one or two inspections.

27060. Inspections by the sanitary authority, do you mean ?

By the factory inspector. I never saw a sanitary authority in the firm. And in each case we were told the day before that he was coming, and that we were to get the place as clean as we possibly could.

27061. You mean that the employer knew that the inspector was coming, and he was prepared to see him ?

Certainly.

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E. PUGH.

[Continued.]

27062. Was the condition of that place ordinarily what you have described as filthy?

I believe it has been condemned, and they have shifted out of it, and have got other premises.

27063. How many men were working there?

I have seen 25 down there. It was in a cellar. They tried every expedient; they lowered the floor and bored holes in the ceiling into the street; and then I do not know whether it was actually condemned, I think it was, but they did get another good workshop since.

27064. Did anybody make any complaint while you were there; did you complain, or did anybody complain of it to the health officer?

No.

27065. Why not?

I do not know. Everybody's business is nobody's business, I suppose. We are very glad to get anywhere, when we are situated in the town, and put up with any inconvenience, so that we can get a Saturday night of some kind. It does not always do to make yourself officious in your branch of trade.

27066. I suppose the sewing machines are used a great deal more now than they used to be formerly?

Yes.

27067. Is the work as well done?

Practically speaking I should think not. It is an eyesore to a practical man to see it on a garment. Of course that is my private opinion.

27068. You think the hand-work is better?

Better, and more gentlemanly.

27069. Do you mean that it lasts longer, or what?

The machine is better adapted for some classes of trade than hand-work; in fact it is a great saving to the practical tailor to have the machine for some garments.

27070. I think you told me just now that you could not say whether there were more women working than formerly?

I could not.

27071. Do you consider it objectionable that women should be employed in your trade?

No, I have no objection to employing women, providing they are fairly paid the market value of their labour; but I do object to their taking the place of men at a reduced rate.

27072. Do you mean that if they are doing a man's work they ought to get a man's pay?

Yes; and besides, they have not the capabilities that men have for contending with any opposition on the part of an employer. I do not believe that they have the capacity to say no in a matter of right or wrong.

27073. What you mean is, I presume, that the employer can get the better of them easier than he can of a man?

Yes; because a girl or woman who has to depend upon her place for a living is more careful to keep it, and will more easily put up with any tyranny than a man would; they have not the spirit that a man has. In this firm that I am working for now, I know that without any necessity whatever they kept a girl there to two o'clock in the morning simply because they wanted a garment done; and I know for a fact, that the same garment was hanging up for a day after, and more; and of course if the girl had the spirit she would not do it.

27074. Are there many foreigners in the trade in Birmingham?

There are very few foreigners in the practical portion of the trade. Of course they are principally foreigners in the sweating, but they are not all so, nor are they worse than some of the English sweaters.

27075. Just

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[Continued.]

27075. Just the same, no worse?

The Jews or the foreigners are not worse.

27076. I suppose by "the foreigners" you mean Jews?

Well, there are some Hungarians that do not belong to the Jewish persuasion, and Germans as well.

27077. And the foreigners are mostly either sweaters, or working for them?

I might know one foreigner that works inside now.

27078. Lord *Clinton*.] I think you said that you visited about 129 sweaters' workshops?

Yes.

27079. Speaking generally, did you find their condition, as far as accommodation and sanitary arrangements are concerned, bad or good?

Good.

27080. You found it generally good?

Yes.

27081. Did you inquire in these workshops whether they had been inspected; do you know whether they had been inspected?

Yes, the majority were inspected.

27082. By the factory inspector?

Yes.

27083. And by the sanitary inspector?

I could not say about the sanitary inspector; I am not well enough versed in law to distinguish between the one and the other. I cannot see why there should be so much technicality.

27084. Then there is not much to complain of in the sweating shops as far as the accommodation and sanitary arrangements are concerned?

No, not much.

27085. Your complaints are as to the reduction of wages?

As to the reduction of wages; of course, personally, as I said, I work for a firm that pay the statement prices.

27086. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do you know if the factory inspectors who have inspected the workshops have made any objection to the state in which they were?

Yes.

27087. And is anything done in consequence?

In the instance as to which I have my memory clear, they are building new workshops.

27088. Then the inspection does do some good?

They were in progress before the inspector visited them; and the parties that had been working there for a number of years had not seen the inspector before.

27089. *Chairman*.] Where else have you worked besides Birmingham; you said you had worked in London?

Yes.

27090. Anywhere else?

Yes; Liverpool.

27091. Anywhere else?

Derby. I have been in various parts of the country; Kidderminster, and Worcester.

27092. What part of London have you worked in?

I worked in Redfern's, and I worked at Hill's, and at Pool's, and at various shops.

(11.)

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27093. Are

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E. PUGH.

[*Continued.*]

27093. Are you at all acquainted with the general condition of the trade in these various towns which you have mentioned ?

Yes.

27094. How does it compare with the condition of the trade in Birmingham ?

I have stayed in Birmingham longer than anywhere else, and have taken more active interest in Birmingham than anywhere else.

27095. Is the condition worse in Birmingham than in these other places, or is it worse in these other places than in Birmingham ; where do you think it is worst ?

I think Birmingham is worse than any place I have been to.

27096. I presume you do not know anything about the East-end of London ?

No, I do not ; only the West-end.

27097. Lord *Clinton*.] Why do you say it is worse in Birmingham than anywhere else ?

Because I have a better knowledge of it in Birmingham.

27098. On what ground do you say it is worse in Birmingham ; you cannot compare it with the condition in other places if you do not know the other places as well ?

No ; but according to the best of my judgment from what I do know of the other places I have been in, I think Birmingham is worse. Being a member of our society I know that we feel the keenness of this competition ; and in the different towns where I have been I do know the general feeling, though I have not a practical knowledge of the present circumstances of the trade there.

27099. You have more competition caused by sweating in Birmingham than elsewhere, I understand you to say ?

Yes. Ten years ago when I was first in Birmingham, we had not nearly the same per-centage of Jews or foreigners as now, but of late years there seems to have been a great influx of them.

27100. *Chairman*.] Do you know where these foreigners come from ; do they come from other parts of England, or from abroad ?

I think principally they come from abroad, or some of them come from London ; some of them are very bad English-speaking people, so I conclude by that that they are foreigners.

27101. I understood you, generally, that you think your trade suffers a good deal in Birmingham from the competition of these sweaters ?

Yes.

27102. That what you principally complain of is the effect of the sweating in breaking down your wages ?

Yes.

27103. And that in some cases the sanitary condition of these workshops is very bad, but that in general it is fairly good ?

Yes.

27104. And then you complain generally of the sanitary condition, not only of the sweaters' places, but of other workshops ?

It is bad in the extreme in some first-class firms.

27105. And that you think the factory inspectors ought to have some sanitary authority ?

I think there should be more of them. As far as the present members of the staff are concerned I think they do the work exceedingly well ; but my opinion is, that to inspect tailors' shops you should have somebody who has a practical knowledge of that particular trade.

27106. Why ?

Because they could do their work better, and would be better adapted to judge what was right or wrong.

27107. Do

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[Continued.]

27107. Do you think that it requires a practical man to know whether there is proper ventilation, and enough air and light, and whether they keep the place clean?

No; but I say that if they understand the requirements of the particular trade they could give a better judgment on the matters that come before them. How can a party who is outside the trade put a question properly?

27108. What you mean is rather, is it not, that the factory inspector should have a better acquaintance with the trade?

Yes.

27109. With regard to the place which you mentioned where the two men were pressing, such a room as that would not come under the factory inspector at all, I suppose?

No, it does not; but I should suggest that it should; that every place where work is carried on should be registered.

27110. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?

I have no wish to volunteer any statement, but I should like to see things remedied. I cannot see why a firm like the one that I belong to should advertise and charge extraordinary prices, and yet keep their own men sitting idle and be giving the trade out, the same class of trade, to parties at a tremendous reduction. For instance, the trousers that are made in our firm inside are paid from 5 s. upwards, and this German takes them out and makes them, and averages them at 3 s. 6 d.

27111. What do you think they would average made on the premises?

In the week ending the 12th of January there were seven pair made by this man, and they came to 2 l. 6 s. 9 d.

27112. By the sweater, do you mean?

By the sweater.

27113. But what I asked you was what would the trousers average made on the premises?

From 5 s. to 6 s.

27114. And they average with this sweater 3 s. 6 d.?

Yes, 3 s. 6 d. And the same week there were three men working inside making that class of trade, and they had only six pair between them, and their six pair came to over 2 l.

27115. It is natural, is it not, that if a master can get those men for half the money outside he should get those men outside?

It is natural, but is it right in principle? Is not that sweating in its severest form?

27116. You have given us the average paid inside, and the average paid outside, for piece work in trousers?

That was only applying to one particular firm.

27117. How are those prices calculated?

Sixpence per hour is the rate of wages for tailoring.

27118. That is inside?

That is inside.

27119. They calculate it at 6 d. an hour, and then they say that it takes so many hours to do so much work, to make a coat or a pair of trousers, or whatever it may be?

Yes.

27120. And then the man gets paid by piece-work so much for the coat, calculated at 6 d. an hour?

Yes.

27121. Then with regard to those outside, do they calculate it in the same way, at 6 d. an hour?

(11.)

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[Continued.]

No, they do not ; it is much less. Not only is there a reduction in the rate per hour, but a reduction in the extras ; they have to put more labour in extras than we could demand to be paid for in the shop ; they put them in and do not charge them to the firm.

27122. What is the rate per hour, about, for those outside ?

Fivepence. That does not apply to all, but to the majority of the best trades.

27123. Do you mean first-class firms ; first-class coats and trousers, and so on ?

Yes. Members of the firm have signed their hand to pay to the statement, and they have deviated from it, and given less every day.

27124. How many hours do they put down to a first-class coat ?

There are so many kinds of coat, and it varies with the different kinds.

27125. Take any kind you like ?

A frock coat commences at 36 hours at 6 *d.* per hour, first-class.

27126. If it were made outside it would be 36 hours at 5 *d.* per hour ; is that so ?

No. There is one first-class firm where dress coats are charged the same price as the frock coats. They have got a man that works out, and though that garment would come up to 21 *s.* he makes them for 15 *s.* 6 *d.* to take the lot ; but he does not baste them. The men that are in the shop lose an hour on each one ; they only get two hours, that is a shilling, for basting them, and they cannot do it in the time ; it is impossible for them to do it ; and the employer gives them to that party because he works at that reduction.

27127. You said that the calculation is 36 hours for a frock coat, at 6 *d.* an hour, inside a first-class firm : now supposing that that same first-class firm puts that coat out to be made outside, would it not be the case then that the wages of the man who made it would be calculated 36 hours at 5 *d.* an hour ?

Not in all firms, but in the majority of them ; but in no case whatever do they pay the statement prices, not the same prices as they do for those who are making them inside.

27128. You have shown us that the price inside is 6 *d.* an hour, and that outside it is 5 *d.* an hour, and what I ask is, if the coat is calculated at 36 hours at 6 *d.* an hour inside, it will be 36 hours at 5 *d.* an hour outside ?

Yes.

27129. And besides that, as I understand you, a man working outside has to find certain things which are found by the firm for the inside man ?

I do not wish to impress that upon you, because it is not a fact ; it is only in the matter of labour. that they put more labour in. I mean to say that with regard to extras which we would get for the making of a garment inside, they would put those extras in and not charge them to the firm, consequently they get more labour at a reduced rate.

27130. What would the extras be ; what would they consist of ?

For instance, back-lining a coat is 6 *d.* They do not pay for that.

27131. The outside people put it in, you mean, without being paid for it ?

They put it in and do not charge. I do not mean to say that they find the back-lining, but the labour for doing it.

27132. But the worker has to put it in, and does not get paid for it ?

Yes.

27133. Supposing that was done inside, what then ?

He would get 6 *d.* for doing it.

27134. And outside the man has to do it and does not get anything ?

He gets nothing.

27135. Then is there anything else ?

The cuts under the arm.

27136. How

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[Continued.]

27136. How much do you suppose all the extras come to in the case of a coat?

They come to a great deal, about 4 s., in the class of garment that we have mentioned.

27137. Is what you mean that a man working inside does about 4 s. worth of extras in the coat for which he is paid, but if he works outside he has to do the labour for nothing?

Not all the labour.

27138. Then I will put it in this way; that the man working inside gets paid for his labour in putting in a certain amount extras, but the man working outside has to do it for nothing?

Not the whole of it.

27139. A certain amount?

Yes; because there is a great deal of difference when it comes before practical men.

27140. So that the outside worker not only gets paid at a less rate per hour, but he has to do more work for it?

Yes.

27141. Earl of *Derby*.] You have stated that an employer can get work done outside for less than on his own premises; how do you propose to remedy that; what means have you of preventing it?

That is a difficult thing; as the law stands now we cannot.

27142. *Chairman*] How do you think the law could be altered so that you could?

I could scarcely say how it could. But it only shows you how the masters grind down their workpeople. They keep them in the busy time when they can give them work, but when they have not sufficient to keep them inside they give it out at a reduced rate, and the customers are still under the impression that the garments are made on the premises, because they advertise them as such.

27143. The primary object of your society, I presume, is to keep up the rate of wages and see that the log prices are paid?

Just so.

27144. And you would think, would you not, that it was difficult to keep up those prices on account of the sweaters making for less?

Yes; making for so much less.

27145. And, therefore, anything that discouraged sweating would be beneficial to you?

Just so.

27146. And the sweating is carried on largely by foreigners, I understood you to say?

Mostly.

27147. Lord *Monckswell*.] Suppose no work was given out, would not that lead to there being more discharged in the slack time?

They do not discharge them if they can help it; they keep them idling about. But there are benefits in our society, such as travelling allowances, which enable a man, when he finds he can no longer get a living in the shop, to go somewhere else; he gets 1 s. 4 d. per night to enable him to go to some other town.

27148. But suppose the men who are now employed to do work outside were taken on by a firm, then in slack time they would all be turned off?

They would not be turned off; they would not be turned off unless they did not suit them.

27149. There would have to be many more turned off in that case than there are now, in slack times, would there not?

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[Continued.]

I do not know of a case where they make a rule of turning people away; they keep them on.

27150. But they get nothing while they are kept on in that way?
They get something, though it may be very little.

27151. Whether they have work or not, do you mean?
If they do not have any work, of course they do not have any money.

27152. Do you mean that an employer, even in the slackest of times, will see that everybody, so to speak, on his staff gets some work to do in the course of the week?

No, I do not mean to say that at all; because I think the majority of them are indifferent whether you get a week's work or no.

27153. Then if they get no work for the week they get no pay?
They get no pay. You might go down and try and get some, and then they can please themselves whether they will let you have it.

27154. My point is only this: that if there were no such thing as sweaters the firms would have to employ a great many more people than they now employ directly under them in times when work pressed, and then in slack times the workmen who are employed under them would get less to do than they do now?

Of course they would, naturally.

27155. I should have thought, then, that it was rather a doubtful advantage to drive a large firm to take, so to speak, on their staff as many as they require during the busy time; because then the position of a person on their staff would not be so good as it is at present?

How so?

27156. Because in slack time a greater proportion of them would have little or nothing to do?

But there are a number of hands employed on the firm whether it is in or out; I mean whether sweaters or not sweaters; but if the firm have not the labour to do, it does not matter to them whether it is in or out; they do not pay for labour that is not done. Whether a man is a middleman, or whether the firm employ him at first hand, it makes no difference; if there is no labour they cannot be paid.

27157. Then I suppose your contention would be that the persons employed by the sweater get employed at a somewhat lower wage than they would get if they were employed immediately by the firm?

Certainly.

27158. And that the sweater in the slack time dispenses with the service under the present system of nearly everybody he employs?

They do not dispense with their services entirely, but they are on short time; they keep them idle the beginning part of the week.

27159. Your contention is, then, that the workpeople would be slightly benefited, though not apparently very much benefited, if the firm themselves did not employ sweaters at all, but took on as many hands as they wanted during the busy time and kept them on in the slack time?

Certainly; the *bona fide* working men would benefit to an enormous degree.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. CHARLES C. W. HOARE, having been re-called, is further Examined, as follows:

27160. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you desire to make some additions to your evidence?

Yesterday I went through my evidence rather hurriedly, and there are one or two points I wish to add to it, and one point I want to correct. I stated that the weight of the bundles that those girls carried that three miles was

24 lbs.;

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Mr. HOARE.

[Continued.]

24 lbs.; I should have said that the weight would not exceed 40 lbs. Forty pounds would be the weight of a full bundle of moleskin trousers; they practise balancing it on their heads, many of them, and make very light of it. But those outworkers at Coseley also work for the Birmingham houses, and there they have to convey the goods to and fro some seven miles; but they do not convey them on foot, they are generally taken by trains or by carriage. Then with reference to the further sanitary powers that we might have, I think it would be a great advantage to the trade and to the public if the inspector had power to close workshops or prevent work being done in houses where he knew there was anything like infectious disease. They stop the children in such houses from going to school, and so on, but there is no doubt about it that clothing often goes to be made in houses where the children are suffering from scarlet fever or measles. But as to the sanitary state of these outworkers' houses, they are good, and in my district they are above the average. The shops that are dirty and in an insanitary state are usually those that are absolutely places that are used as workshops, larger places, and there we have very limited powers; we have no power to compel ventilation; there is a readiness to carry it out on the part of the employers, but at the same time there is a greater readiness on the part of the workpeople to shut it up in every possible way. From the constrained position in which tailors sit, their circulation I fancy is bad, and the consequence is that they stop up every crevice where fresh air can come in; and too often their irons are heated in the rooms themselves, and being so heated they make the temperature excessive. Then, again, they burn gas in a reckless way in immense jets of flame, and I have been into some of these shops of an evening at the finishing-up time of the day, when the atmosphere, to stand up in them, was almost unbearable; they are sitting low and do not feel it so much, and you will find in many instances the ventilators are carefully papered up or stopped up.

27161. Earl of *Derby*.] That is the doing of the men themselves, not of the employers?

That is the doing of the men, contrary to every wish and instruction of the employers. They get very sensitive to draughts, and they will not understand that the excessive heat causes these draughts which they want to avoid, and that if they let these things be open, they really would not feel any draught.

27162. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You say that you have no power as to ventilation; does not the Act give you power?

The only power it gives is that we can compel the employer to give 250 cubic feet of space to each worker and for each three gas burners, and 400 cubic feet when they are working overtime.

27163. And that is as far as the somewhat general expressions in the Act carry you practically?

Yes.

27164. You do not conceive that the Act gives you any greater power than that?

No; it does not give us, either, sufficient power with reference to providing proper closet accommodation which we ought to have. It is very demoralizing that men and women should use the same closets, but it is done.

27165. I do not quite understand about that; do you mean that the words of the Act are too general to give you any power, any remedy, for particular grievances? —Yes. The sanitary powers that we have under the Act are mixed up with the Public Health Act. We have certain powers in connection with the Public Health Act; it would be better, I think, if the powers that we have were defined in our own Act, or in an amended Act. We have to go to the local authorities very often to do anything in a sanitary way. Then, with regard to a question which was asked just now, there is no doubt about it that when trade gets slack in the case of these large firms who have outworkers, the outworkers are the ones that are the first to suffer. A man who in such slack times has work to do, unless it is of a special nature, gives it to those who work inside his premises, because there he has standing expenses, and the outworkers get the residue; and,

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Mr. HOARE.

[*Continued.*]

therefore, constantly the outworkers have to go day by day to get, perhaps, half a day's work. But, at the same time, I know that many of these outworkers who could go inside to work will not do it, but prefer working in their own homes. I have asked them again and again, "Why do you not go in?" They say, "Oh, we prefer doing it in our own homes; there we can work or not as we think fit." If a man took all his workers inside, unless he had a very large steady trade, his standing expenses would be very largely increased; he requires to have more room, and more supervision.

27166. *Chairman.*] Have you anything else you wish to say?

I wrote a report on the sweating trade in my district to Mr. Oram, your travelling secretary; I will put that in for the Appendix. It is only a short report. There are certain statements in it that would rather go to confirm the statements that have been made as to the rate of wages in the district. (*The Report is handed in, see Appendix.*)

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next,
at Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 14^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Duke of NORFOLK.
Earl of DERBY.
Lord CLINTON.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven
and Mount-Earl*).
Lord MONKSWELL.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. JOSEPH ABRAHAM, is called in; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

27167. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your trade?
Tailoring.

27168. Where is your place of business?
Alice-street, Birmingham.

27169. Have you got a factory or workshop, or what?
A workshop.

27170. How many hands do you generally employ?
Between 16 and 17.

27171. Do you take work from various firms?
Yes.

27172. How do you take it out from them?
So much each garment.

27173. Do you do all your work on your own premises?
On my own premises.

27174. All of it?
All of it.

27175. How do you pay your hands, by piece or by time?
Daily.

27176. So much a day?
So much a day; some of them weekly. Apprentices, and such as those,
weekly.

27177. Do you employ men and women?
Yes.

27178. All the adults you employ you pay so much a day?
All the principal hands, so much a day; the apprentices, and so on,
weekly.

27179. And how do you estimate the wages that you pay them; do you
expect them to turn out a certain amount of work in the day?
No, there is no must or anything of that sort about it.

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Mr. ABRAHAMS.

[Continued.]

27180. What is the rate of wages that you are paying now ?

I pay women up to 1 *l.* a week, and men up to 36 *s.*

27181. And what would be the lowest ; I do not mean including learners ?

Taking the lowest wages of a man that comes to work at daily work he would not work under 6 *s.* a day.

27182. That makes 36 *s.* a week ?

That man works daily, not weekly.

27183. Do you mean that you are paying no man less than 6 *s.* a day ?

No.

27184. For six days' work a week ?

Yes.

27185. And some you are paying more ?

I do not pay more.

27186. In fact you pay all your men 6 *s.* a day ; and what would be the lowest that a woman earns ?

Twelve shillings a week ; that is the lowest.

27187. How many hours a week do they work ?

They work from eight to eight ; they do not work Saturday.

27188. They do not work Saturday at all ?

No.

27189. Are you working five days a week or six days a week ?

I work five days a week regularly. We do not work Saturday or Sunday ; very little on Sunday.

27190. Have you different departments in your workshop ?

No.

27191. All one room ?

Yes.

27192. You get the goods, I suppose, cut out ?

Yes.

27193. Then you have to make them up and return them ?

Yes.

27194. And you get paid so much a garment, and you pay your hands so much a day ?

Yes.

27195. Out of these 16 or 17 hands, how many are apprentices, or learners, or improvers ?

There are about five.

27196. What do you call them, apprentices ?

Yes.

27197. Are they indentured in any way ?

No.

27198. A verbal agreement ?

Yes.

27199. What is the nature of the agreement ?

First, when they come in they get 2 *s.* a week and upwards.

27200. How long will that 2 *s.* a week last generally ?

Three months.

27201. Then after that ?

They get about 3 *s.* or 4 *s.*

27202. For another three months ?

Yes.

27203. Then

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Mr. ABRAHAM.

[Continued.]

27203. Then after that first six months?

Rising continually, according to how they go on with the trade. Some of them are not good learners, and some of them are.

27204. How long do you consider it takes for them to learn the trade, an average worker?

In about two years they can earn as much as 12 s. a week.

27205. Have you any hands working for you that have been with you for three years earning less than that?

Yes.

27206. Many?

About one or two. Regular hands, do you mean?

27207. No, apprentices?

I have got one or two.

27208. Would you say that they were very stupid if they could not earn more than 5 s. or 6 s. a week after three years?

They would be.

27209. That would be very unusual, would it?

Well, I should say so myself.

27210. You would know, would you not?

Yes.

27211. And is that very unusual?

Yes.

27212. As a rule, they would be earning 12 s. a week, would they, after two years?

If they learn their trade pretty well. Some of them learn better than the others. Some may be at it three years, and would not earn 5 s. at it then, because they would be no good at it at all.

27213. Do they generally stay with you when they are out of their time; when they cease to be apprentices?

Yes, of course; some of them leave when they know the trade.

27214. They can leave if they like, I suppose, at any time?

Yes; there is no agreement attached to it; they can please themselves.

27215. And you on your part engage to teach them the trade, I suppose?

Yes.

27216. Do you teach them all the branches of the trade, or only one branch?

Only one branch; coat-making.

27217. You teach them to do all the work on a coat?

Yes.

27218. Do you generally have about the same number of learners; about five or six?

No, not generally.

27219. What is your general number?

I have two or three sometimes; at the present time I have got five.

27220. Is your business in ready-made clothing?

Wholesale.

27221. And ready-made?

Yes.

27222. Altogether?

Yes.

27223. You do nothing in the bespoke trade?

No.

(11.)

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27224. And

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Mr. ABRAHAM'S.

[Continued.]

27224. And you know nothing about the bespoke trade, I suppose?
Not much.

27225. Do you work your hands overtime?
No.

27226. Never?
Never.

27227. You work them five days a week all the year round?
Yes.

27228. From eight to eight?
Yes.

27229. Then it would be quite wrong to say that your average week's work would be three days?

Our trade is a wholesale trade; that is where we have got the advantage of five days a week; it is not an order trade; it is all wholesale. We begin on Monday, and we leave off at the end of the week regularly.

27230. What I asked you was whether it would be incorrect to say that your average week's work was three days?

No, that is not true.

27231. And you put out no work whatever to outworkers?
No work whatever.

27232. Do you know whether it is a custom at all for middlemen in the bespoke trade to crowd all the work into the last two or three days of the week?

That is not in our trade.

27233. I asked you whether that occurred in the bespoke trade. You do not know anything about that trade?

No, I do not mix up amongst them.

27234. You cannot answer any questions with regard to that?
No.

27235. How long have you been in business in Birmingham?
In business for myself 10 years.

27236. Were you working in Birmingham before that?
Five years.

27237. Is there much foreign immigration into Birmingham; much immigration of foreigners?

Not to my knowledge. There are people there as there have been before; the same people ever since.

27238. But are there many people there now that were not there before?
There were one or two who came, and they go away again.

27239. Do you think there are about the same number of foreigners in the trade now as there were 15 years ago?

There are.

27240. Not more?
Not more.

27241. Have you any hands under age?
No.

27242. Has your place ever been visited by the factory inspector?
Nearly every month.

27243. And the sanitary inspector?
Yes.

27244. He visits it also?
Yes.

27245. Has

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Mr. ABRAHAM.

[Continued.]

27245. Has he ever made any complaint as to the sanitary condition :
Not that I know of ; only told us to whitewash the place regular ; that is all.

27246. Can you speak at all as to the sanitary condition of the workshops of the middlemen generally in Birmingham ?

I could not say anything as to that.

27247. During your 15 years' experience, has the rate of wages been going up or going down ?

The wages have been going up ever since.

27248. Going up the last 15 years ?

Going up to twice the amount since 15 years ago in the tailoring line.

27249. Do you mean in the tailoring generally, or in your business ?

In all tailoring businesses.

27250. Do you mean that they paid these learners 15 years ago less than they do now ?

They used to pay a good hand 10 s. per week where she gets 20 s. and 24 s. now.

27251. And with regard to the prices that you get, do they vary much ?

The prices were better then.

27252. Ten or 15 years ago, I understand you to say that you got better prices for the goods you made up, and paid much less for labour ?

Yes.

27253. Lord Clinton.] You say your people work from eight to eight five days a week ?

Yes.

27254. What intervals have they got for meals ?

An hour for dinner, from one till two ; and half-an-hour, half-past four till five o'clock, for tea.

27255. Are the men and women working together ?

Men and women work together.

27256. Are they foreign or English people ?

English and foreigners.

27257. Where do the foreigners come from ?

Russia.

27258. When you say that you do not know of any complaint about the sanitary condition of your workshop, what is the privy accommodation ?

The inspectors look after that.

27259. But what is the accommodation in your workshop ; you have a privy ?

Yes.

27260. How many ?

One water-closet.

27261. And that is used by men and women ?

No, the men have a different place ; that is only for women.

27262. Then you have two ?

Yes, two ; for men and women separately.

27263. Duke of Norfolk.] Do your work-people have their meals on the premises, or go home ?

They go home for dinner ; and tea they have downstairs in the kitchen.

27264. Do they never take any of the work home to do ?

No.

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Mr. ABRAHAMS.

[Continued.]

27265. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you provide them with their tea?
Yes.

27266. Do they pay for it?
No.

27267. You say you do little work on Sunday, and you pay your men 6*s.* a day, and they get 36*s.* a week; that would make six days' work?
They never do work a day on Sunday; they may work half the day.

27268. Usually then you do not give your men more than 30*s.* a week?
If they work five days they would get that; if four days they would only get 24*s.*

27269. Is your work regular throughout the year?
Yes.

27270. Do you have machine work?
Four machines.

27271. One witness told us that the wages in the machine trade had gone up of late years, whereas the ordinary wages of men working without the machine had not gone up; is that your experience?

I do not know; it is a different trade entirely that they are speaking about. This is about wholesale trading, and they are speaking about hand work.

27272. *Chairman*.] Do you manufacture coats only?
Coats only.

27273. That is the best-paid branch of the trade?
That is the best paid.

27274. What is commonly called sweating would be chiefly confined to vests and children's suits, and so on?

I do not understand the meaning of sweating; it is not about Birmingham, not in our trade.

27275. Then I will ask you another question. In trousers and vests and children's suits, would anything like the wages you have named as what you pay be earned?

Yes.

27276. They earn the same?
A man has good wages.

27277. At making knickerbocker suits, and so on, men and women would be earning the same wages that you have mentioned?

Yes.

27278. How do you know?

I have a little experience. I work for the same firm as others who do those things; not from outside, but from inside.

27279. You mean that the same firm you work for deal in these other goods?

Yes.

27280. You told me just now that the coat trade was the best-paid branch of the clothing trade; at the same time you say now that they earn in other branches just as good wages?

I do not know the other branches.

27281. You told me that in making vests and children's suits and so on, they make as good wages as in your branch?

I have heard that they earn as much as 12*s.* and 15*s.* a week; that is all that I could say about it.

27282. You make coats of all qualities, I suppose?
Not of all qualities, a certain class.

27283. What

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Mr. ABRAHAMS.

[Continued.]

27283. What class?
Wholesale.

27284. But what kind of goods?
I make up any coats, barring frock coats.

27285. Can you tell the Committee the prices you get for them?
There is different trading. There is summer work one price, and winter trade another price.

27286. Take whichever you like, what do you get for them?
There are several classes of work; there is bound work, and stitched work. In the bound trade the worker runs up to 4 s. 6 d.

27287. What kind of coats would they be?
Morning coats, broad baud.

27288. Is that the best paid?
That is the best paid.

27289. What is the lowest kind, the cheapest coat that you make?
The cheapest coat that I make is at 1 s. 9 d. for a man.

27290. I suppose these learners learn every branch of your trade, machining, and basting, felling, and so on, and everything?
Yes.

27291. Do you pay them, or the machinists and others pay them?
I pay the wages myself to everybody.

27292. You pay the learners yourself?
Yes.

27293. The learners' wages are not deducted out of the other hands' wage?
No.

27294. What do your hands have to find in the way of thread, and so on?
Nothing at all.

27295. Then the wages you mentioned are clear net wages?
Clear net wages.

27296. No deduction whatever?
No deduction whatever; whatever days they work they get paid what I have said.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. HARRIS DAVIES is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

27297. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?
A tailor.

27298. In Walsall?
Yes.

27299. I think you take contracts from Messrs. Shannon and Son?
I have been working for Mr. Shannon and Son these last 19 years.

27300. What class of goods do you make for him?
Coats.

27301. All kinds of coats?
All kinds, from common up to the best.

27302. How does he pay you; so much per coat?
He pays me so much per coat.

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27303. Can you give us the prices ?

There are various prices, of course, being wholesale trade ; there is wholesale and orders ; we do both. If they are pushed with measures, the other department, we help one another up.

27304. You mean you work both in the wholesale and bespoke trade ?

Yes ; chiefly I do the wholesale myself ; only when it comes to extra times, such as Easter or Whitsuntide, or before Christmas perhaps, I may make them 100 or 200 a week extra.

27305. Is there a regular price fixed for the different kinds of coats in the wholesale trade ?

Yes.

27306. Does that vary ?

It depends upon the quality of the stuff.

27307. I suppose you do not make a bargain with him for every coat ?

No.

27308. How do you arrange ?

The price is fixed by the governor, by Mr. Shannon, according to the garments ; various coats for various prices. I suppose they reckon up what they can afford to sell them for, and they fix the price according to what they can be paid for making.

27309. And do those prices vary very often ?

I never knew it vary for the years I have been working. About 15 years ago they were paid a bit more, but this last 15 years they have not had a change in the prices, or not for the last eight or nine years. Not the better class of goods. A few were reduced eight to nine years ago to enable the firm to meet the demand for the low class of goods the extreme depression in trade had caused a demand for, but the better classes of stuff have not been altered.

27310. Then in the bespoke trade, how do you arrange the price ?

The same way ; I do not arrange the prices ; it is arranged from the firm ; it is arranged by the firm according to the various garments that they sell, I suppose.

27311. They tell you what they will give you for making these goods ?

It is booked to me. If 100 or 200 coats come of a certain cutting, I know what the price fixed is ; the price is entered in the book.

27312. I understand that perfectly in the ready-made trade, but I wanted to find out how you arrange it in the order trade ?

It is just the same way. I am speaking of the warehouse. The private shops is a different matter altogether.

27313. That is to say, if you get so many frock coats to make, you know, without asking, what you are going to get for them ?

Yes, I know what we are going to get for them.

27314. And you are paid a little less now than you used to be paid 15 years ago ?

Yes, for the low class of goods.

27315. Much less ?

Not very much less

27316. How many hands have you in your employ ?

I employ from 65 up to 70.

27317. All in the same place ?

All under one roof, all in one room. I have brought with me a photograph of the place, which will no doubt give you an idea how the shop is situated (*producing it*). That is the outside of it. Also that is a photo of the hands (*producing another photograph*).

27318. How do you divide the work in this factory ; how many departments have you ?

Only one room ; it is 40 feet long and 33 feet wide, and there are about 12 windows, and each window has to be opened when it is necessary, and 12 ventilators ;

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

tilators; and I also have a separate room for their meals, a separate tea room, which you will see leading up from the side. This is the tea-room (*pointing to the photograph*).

27319. All your work is carried on in one room?
All in one room.

27320. You get the work cut out, I suppose?
The work is cut out and sent to me, and I execute the work. I do not keep any foreman; so I am there myself, and I do not give any out.

27321. But do not you have foremen over the different stages of the work?
No.

27322. You superintend it all yourself?
All myself.

27323. How many of these hands are males and how many females?
There are 10 males.

27324. What would they be doing?
Two fitters and the rest are pressers. The fitters get the work ready for the machinists; the others are pressing it.

27325. And the others are all females?
Yes.

27326. How do you pay them, by so much a garment?
Some are paid weekly, the majority of them are paid weekly. There are eight or 10 piece-workers.

27327. What are your weekly wages?
It all depends; they vary. Of course learners commence low down. They go up as high as 16 s. for females.

27328. Sixteen shillings a week is the highest?
Yes.

27329. And what would be the lowest, not including learners?
Not including learners it is 6 s. That would be like an improver.

27330. And men?
In the pressing we take youths, to teach them the pressing, and do not teach them anything else but the pressing. If you take a tailor you cannot expect a practical tailor to do the pressing, because they are not used to it; it is impossible for a practical man to stand up and do the pressing all day.

27331. Then what would you pay these pressers?
I take them as learners from youths. I start them at 6 s. a week, and so go on. I keep improving them to 25 s. to 26 s. and 30 s., just according as their ability is. Some learn quicker than others.

27332. How many of them are skilled pressers; how many of them are you paying high wages to?
There are four pressing off coats.

27333. What will they be earning?
They will earn from 28 s. up to 30 s.

27334. And how much would the learners earn?
The others would be improvers and learners. Some get 15 s., and some various other amounts.

27335. What are the hands you pay by piece?
Then they are like practical hands. I could trust them with a garment to do it; a certain part of a garment I can trust into their hands.

27336. What have they got to do with the garment?
Different parts of the garment. They are getting as much as 15 s. and 16 s. a week.

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27337. I want to know what they do ?

There are various parts of a garment. They get 6 *d.* a dozen for button-hole making ; for putting the binding on a coat they get 5 *d.* for putting the edge on. If it is a stock, it is 6 *d.*, if it is an overcoat it is 8 *d.* That is merely for the edge alone ; there are other parts of the binding to be put on. Some people go away with the idea that they bind a coat when they put the edge on, but there are pockets, flaps, sleeves. The coat is bound for 8 *d.* ; perhaps when it comes to be reckoned up, the coat comes to 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, binding it for various parts.

27338. The button-holing and binding is paid by the piece ?

Yes.

27339. Is anything else paid by piece ?

So much for basting the garment as well by piece ; then the other parts get done by the improver.

27340. What do these piece-workers earn ?

We reckon they earn always about 3 *d.* an hour ; that is what we reckon they should ; females.

27341. What are your hours ?

Eight to eight.

27342. How long for meals ?

An hour and a half.

27343. Do you work five days a week ?

We work Saturdays in my place from six to two o'clock, according to the Factory Act. Captain Bevan is often in my place inspecting it. He is the inspector for our district. If ever I do make any overtime, I always fill up one of those overtime forms.

27344. Now as to these learners, what do you pay them when they first come on you ?

When they are about 13 they bring their certificate of labour. I do not engage them until they bring their certificate of labour from the schoolmaster. And also they bring me a birth certificate before I engage them. Then I start them with a 1 *s.* a week for the first three months, 2 *s.* for the second three months, 3 *s.* for the third three months, and 4 *s.* for the fourth three months ; and they get 1 *s.* rise every three months after that as they go on. If they are quick in learning, of course they are raised exactly to the three months. Some are quicker than others ; some are more forward than others.

27345. How many learners have you now ?

About 10, I should think, either 10 or a dozen ; I could not tell you exactly to one or two.

27346. And how many improvers ?

There will be about two dozen.

27347. Is that about the usual number ?

They vary sometimes ; about two dozen, I should think, would be improvers.

27348. What will improvers earn ?

They get from 5 *s.* up to 8 *s.*, 9 *s.*, and 10 *s.* a week, such figures as those.

27349. Do you mean to say that you have many improvers earning 10 *s.* a week ?

Reckoning, you see, that they have been three years at it, that they are getting towards the end of the three years.

27350. I asked you whether you had many improvers earning 10 *s.* a week ?

There may be a half a dozen like that ; I could not tell you to one or two ; when they have finished the three years I always put them on piece-work ; then they earn all they can for themselves ; then I can trust them with a garment to do it themselves, certain parts.

27351. But

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27351. But how about the machinists ; have you not learners machining ?
Yes.

27352. You cannot put them on piece-work ?

No. I have got 16 machinists, and they are all weekly. I start them in the same way.

27353. Will they earn the same rates of wages as you mentioned ?

Yes ; either sewing hands, or button-hole hands, or machine hands, in the same way.

27354. You pay them in the same way whatever they are learning ?

Yes, the same scale.

27355. Are there any of them, do you know, who have been as long as four years with you and are not earning more than 8 s. a week ?

If there should be one or two, that would be only on account of their being stupid and not getting forward with their trade. Some are very quick in learning, and some are very backward. You could not expect me to go and pay two persons the same, when one deserves 12 s. and the other does not deserve 8 s.

27356. Then your answer to my question is that there may be some, and if so, it is because they are stupid ?

Because they are backward with learning.

27357. And then the learners in basting and binding and the fellers are paid in just the same way ?

Yes.

27358. The same amount ?

The same amount.

27359. Then I think you said you worked overtime ?

When we do I always fill up one of those forms. I pay the learners 2 d. an hour for overtime, and the weekly persons, the females, I pay 3 d. an hour for overtime, and the men 6 d.

27360. When you are all making overtime you pay the learners 2 d., the female hands 3 d., and the men 6 d. an hour ?

Yes.

27361. Do you generally work your legal allowance of overtime during the year ?

I do not believe, myself, in a lot of overtime. You can see according to the book what overtime I am making. I have only made, I think, about three or four hours' overtime this year. I believe in regular hours, and I think we can get through the work far better than by working after eight o'clock.

27362. Then I may take it that you do not avail yourself of your legal right to work overtime ?

Unless there is a very big push of trade, a great demand, I do not believe in it. I think when females have been all day in a workshop, from eight till eight, they want a little recreation for themselves.

27363. Are you working full time all the year round ?

No, I could not say at full time ; we have been since January ; since the 1st of January we have made full time.

27364. What is your slack time of the year ?

We reckon a couple of months at Christmas, and then after bank holiday ; and then also our trade is different to the retail trade in regard to the slack time. Sometimes we drop off with our work just before Christmas in the wholesale trade ; then we start on the spring samples again. It all depends. It is not like the order trade. In the order trade they get more busy towards the holiday time, and then they will be slack during the year.

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27365. Can

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27365. Can you tell the Committee what you suppose your average slack time is during the year?

I should think it would be two months slack during the year.

27366. You are working full time for 10 months?

Yes, we have been for this last four or five years, the firm that I work for. The slack we reckon at about three or four days a week. The lowest we do is three days a week in the slack time.

27367. How do you manage in the slack time; do you work three days in the week, and not the other three at all?

No; some days we will do half-a-day and some days three-quarters of a day, from eight to five or eight to one o'clock.

27368. What is a half-day?

From eight till one.

27369. Then, if you work for any less time than that, do you pay a half-day?

We have never done that.

27370. You mean you have never worked less than half-a-day?

We never work less than half the day. On Saturday they work a half-day and are paid just the same as any ordinary day. They knock off at two o'clock.

27371. Does it ever happen that your hands are waiting for work?

Yes; sometimes one branch waits for another.

27372. Then, I presume, you do not pay them?

When they are on the premises they are paid.

27373. Whether they are working or whether they are not?

Whether they are working or whether they are not. Sometimes they are sitting for hours idle; perhaps the machinist has not sufficient to supply the plain hands, and when they are on the premises I pay them, with the exception of piece-workers; of course they earn what they get. When they come in at eight o'clock and come out at one they are paid for the half-day, whether they are at work or not.

27374. Do your learners and improvers generally stay with you, or do they go somewhere else?

They generally stay after the first three years; I never make any agreement with them.

27375. Do you employ Jews and Christians both?

I have not got any Jews working for me; I used to have them at one time, but I have not got them now.

27376. Why did you discontinue having them?

Well, because they were not satisfied. Walsall is a place where there are not many Jews, and some of our people are more comfortable when they are not amongst them.

27377. Earl of Derby.] I do not think you told us how much of the work done in your establishment is done by piece-work?

Certain parts of the garment.

27378. About what proportion of the whole is that; can you tell us?

The binding is put on by piece, of the edges of the coat.

27379. But that does not tell us the proportion?

There are a dozen piece-workers; they do one certain part.

27380. When there is a vacancy in your establishment, do you always find that there are applicants; people ready to apply for work?

Yes; we keep training them from one to another; keep improving them. I get several applications sometimes from young girls after they leave schooling.

I never

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Mr. DAVIES.

[Continued.]

I never like to put a number in the workshop that would overcrowd it? I like to see that they have plenty of room and comfort.

27381. Lord *Monkswell*.] What class of goods do you do?
Coats.

27382. Inferior, best, or middling?
I reckon generally to do the best work; still it is various.

27383. What is the cheapest coat you make?
The lowest would be a tweed suit; a coat like a tweed coat.

27384. How much would that be?
That would be 1 s. 8 d., that I would get, and that would be a suit that the wholesale clothier would have to sell very cheap.

27385. *Chairman*.] I think you said that you used to get a little better price in former days?
Yes.

27386. Have wages gone up or down?
The wages I pay are a lot more than I used to pay years back.

27387. You do not work yourself in the trade, I suppose; you superintend?
I work myself and superintend.

27388. What work do you do?
Chiefly seeing whether the work is all right, and doing a certain part of the shaping of the garment, and such things as that.

27389. Before you had this place, were you working as a journeyman yourself?

Yes, I worked for Mr. Marks, who at that time occupied the same position as I do now, viz.: employing workpeople to make up coats for the firm. I left Mr. Marks 18 years ago, and I started with a few machines to make up coats for the firm. I have gone on increasing my staff from year to year since that time.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. LOUIS ROSENBERG is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

27390. WHAT is the firm that you are a partner in?
Rosenberg and Neufliess.

27391. And where is your factory?
Dudley-street, Birmingham.

27392. What is the nature of your business?
Wholesale clothing manufacturers.

27393. Do you make both ready-made and bespoke?
We do.

27394. Do you do all your work on your own premises?
No. We have both in and out-door hands.

27395. How many do you employ on your own premises?
In-doors we have 212.

27396. How do you conduct that business; how do you divide the labour in your own factory?

We make juvenile suits, trousers, waistcoats and juvenile coats in-doors; and for men's coats we have out-door hands. The first witness to-day, Mr. Abrahams, works for us.

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27397. I understand

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Mr. ROSENBERG.

[Continued.]

27397. I understand you to mean that the men's coats are made outside, the juvenile suits inside?

Yes. Juvenile suits, trousers, and waistcoats are made in-doors; but we have also out-door waistcoat hands.

27398. They are mostly females, I suppose, that you employ?

Yes. Mostly females in-doors.

27399. How many men do you employ in-doors?

The in-door men are simply fitters and pressers.

27400. How do you pay them, by the time?

The pressers are paid by piece-work, and the in-door hands are all paid by piece-work. We have a few hands who are weekly hands, such as button-hole machine hands; they are paid by weekly wages.

27401. You pay the button-holers by time?

They work the button-holes by a machine, and it is impossible to pay them by piece-work, and so we pay them weekly wages.

27402. Why is it impossible?

Because they have to wait for certain branches of the trade, until the garments are ready for them. They change goods from one place to the other, and therefore it is impossible for them to be paid piece-work; an injustice would be done to them if they were.

27403. Can you give the Committee the prices you pay these various people; take the in-door part of the business first?

The prices that we pay for making the garments.

27404. Yes?

Juveniles, we begin from 9 *d.* up to 2 *s.*; that is knicker suits, two garments. Men's coats from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 2 *s.*; we only make in-doors very common coats; the better work we give out. Men's trousers 8½ *d.* to 1 *s.* 3½ *d.*; men's vests from 7 *d.* to 1 *s.*; youths' coats from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 4 *d.*; and youths' trousers 8½ *d.* to 9 *d.*; youths' vests 4½ *d.* to 7 *d.*; knicker suits I have already mentioned.

27405. That is what you called juveniles, 9 *d.* to 2 *s.*?

Ninepence to 2 *s.*; juveniles' two-garment suits, little knickers, very small size.

27406. That you pay for these garments completed?

Yes. When completed.

27407. Those garments have to go through a variety of processes and hands? They do.

27408. How do you divide the payment for them?

One is a machinist, the other is a finisher. I have a list of the prices that the machinists and finishers earn, and I have classified it in four weeks' earnings in this book.

27409. If you take any one of these, say the juvenile knicker suits at 9 *d.*, in paying the machinists and others, do you pay them so much for their work on that particular garment?

Altogether. One hand does not make the whole of the garment. That is divided and the price arranged. I am not in a position to tell you exactly the division of the prices; I did not provide myself with that, but simply with the earnings which each girl, both finisher and machinist, earns, and then you can form an idea how they are paid.

27410. But you cannot tell me how much you pay them respectively for the work they do on that particular garment?

The garments are so varied, from 9 *d.* to 2 *s.*, that it would take a whole tabular list to give you the difference, according to the quality of the cloth the prices are paid. I tried to do it yesterday before coming here, but I found that the work was too great.

27411. I suppose

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Mr. ROSENBERG.

[Continued.]

27411. I Suppose there is a regular scale laid down, is there not?

Yes; they get so much for machining, and so much for finishing and so on.

27412. But that you say you are not prepared to give?

I am not prepared to give that.

27413. But you are prepared to give an estimate of what they can earn during the week?

Yes. Which department would you like?

27414. Take what you like?

Of the coat machinists who machine both youths' and men's coats, the lowest earnings are 8 s. 10 d. and the highest 25 s. 1 d.

27415. These, I understand, are over an average of four weeks?

Yes; four weeks' earnings. The way I arrive at that is this: I have taken the earnings of each of the hands, and brought down the average, and from the column I have selected the highest and the lowest earnings of each hand. Now, coat finishers: the highest is 15 s. 11 d. and the lowest 6 s. 8 d.; trouser machinists, the highest 23 s. 7 d. and the lowest 5 s. 1 d.

27416. Lord Clinton.] Does all this apply to in-door work?

Yes; I am speaking now of in-door work; the low-priced coats we make in-doors, but the better class out-doors. Trouser finishers: the highest 21 s. 6 d., and the lowest 3 s. 6½ d. The hand that earns 21 s. 6 d. has a learner whom she pays 4 s. a week.

27417. Chairman.] Before you leave the trousers, how do you account for their being such a very great difference between the highest and the lowest?

We do meet with a class of hands that no matter how long they learn can earn very little. An old lady, perhaps, wants to earn a few shillings, and she can do very little, and she comes there more for pastime than anything else, and her earnings are very small; but it is a very exceptional case where the earnings are so small: 11 s. 1 d., 8 s. 2 d., 7 s. 10 d., 9 s. 4 d., 4 s. 8 d., 12 s. 1 d., 7 s. 1 d., 7 s. 6 d., 10 s. 6 d., and 10 s. 7 d.; those are the figures in one column, and are the earnings of these various hands.

27418. Then as to vests?

The highest is 22 s. 6 d., and the lowest, 9 s., that is vest machinists. Now we come to the juvenile department: the juvenile coat machinists earn, the highest, 20 s. 8 d., and the lowest, 7 s. 2 d.; juvenile vest and coat finishers, the highest, 17 s. 1 d., the lowest, 6 s. 1 d.; the juvenile knicker machinist, the highest, 14 s. 10 d., and the lowest, 10 s. 3 d.; the juvenile knicker finishers, the highest, 10 s. 4 d., and the lowest, 5 s. 1 d. The men pressers, we have as high as 50 s. 3 d.; but this man pays a learner; I think he pays him 5 s. or 6 d. out of this wage; and the lowest presser has 14 s. 10 d. I now come to the day-workers.

27419. Whom do you call day-workers?

Pressers and button-hole makers.

27420. Paid by the day?

Paid weekly wages. The lowest is 5 s., the highest, 15 s. weekly. That finishes the in-door hands.

27421. This, of course, will not include learners?

With regard to the system of learners, we adopt rather a different system from many of the manufacturers. We have a great scarcity of hands in Birmingham on account of the large number of trades there are in Birmingham, and girls being wanted for almost every branch of the various trades. We therefore adopt the plan that we take learners for three months; but instead of deriving any benefit ourselves we simply place a girl like that under the care of a practically experienced hand, and, if a machinist, we supply her with a machine, and she takes her under her own care. Virtually speaking we engage them for three months for nothing, but invariably we find that the rule is that these machinists out of their own generosity give them from 1 s. to 3 s. a week as they advance. When the three months are up, or when we find that the learner is sufficiently experienced to be able to make a low-priced garment of an inferior kind, we

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Mr. ROSENBERG.

[*Continued.*]

take this girl away from the machinist and we give her an inferior kind of work whereby she earns 4 s., 5 s., or 6 s., as the case may be, and as she improves herself we give her superior work, till she becomes a practical experienced hand. We adopt this course for the simple object of manufacturing hands, because in getting hands we find scarcity. Some of them get married, and we want others in their place, and by that means we get hands replaced.

27422. You have a number of rooms, I suppose in your factory ?
Yes.

27423. And you work, I presume, the regular factory hours ?
We work even an hour less, we work from eight till seven.

27424. Six days a week ; Saturday I suppose, is a short day ?
On Saturday very little is done ; they work till 10 or 11 o'clock ; they generally clean the rooms up and so on. Saturdays the work is very little because we pay at one o'clock in the day.

27425. And with regard to the wages that you have mentioned that are calculated on the week, I want to know whether they are to be considered as five day's work ?

It is really six days' work, but on Saturday we leave off at one, and on the other days work from eight to seven.

27426. Is your business pretty constant ; do you work full time all the year round ?

Yes ; all the year round except at Christmas, when we take stock ; then it is a fortnight or three weeks before the samples are got out. If we have no orders in we work generally for stock.

27427. I may take it that your in-door hands are employed at the rates you have mentioned, and for the hours that you have mentioned, pretty nearly all the year round ?

Yes, pretty nearly so.

27428. Then you have told us further that you put out a good deal of work ?
Yes.

27429. You cut it out, I suppose, on your own premises ?
All the garments are cut on our own premises.

27430. And how do you put that out ?

The in-door work goes into the factory, and the out-door work is given to the out-door workers. It is cut and trimmed ready for making, and the hands, such as your first witness, take the work home, make it, and bring it in. We have two departments, the ready-made and the bespoke. For the bespoke we get up a number of pattern cards which we send out to small shopkeepers, all over the country, and they take their orders from their private customers which they forward to us, and we cut and make them and when finished they are returned to them.

27431. Now, with regard to the work you put out, is that, most of it, done by what have been called, I think, out-workers ; that is to say, hands working in their own homes for you, or is it, most of it, done by master tailors, or by tailors employing labour ?

It is done by men like the first witness you had to-day.

27432. What may be called middlemen ?

That depends entirely upon the terms you employ in defining middlemen.

27433. What do you call them ?

I should call them ordinary tailors ; and they themselves employ hands and pay them various wages, which I am prepared to tell you, because, before coming here, yesterday, I went round to all my workpeople, and ascertained the wages they pay.

27434. You mean the workpeople that work for you ?

Yes ; and saw also to the condition of their shops and rooms.

27435. How

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[Continued.]

27435. How do you pay them, by piece?
We pay them by piece.

27436. So much a garment?
Yes.

27437. But it is no affair of yours how they get them made, I suppose, or what they pay?

We do not dictate to them what they are to pay, but I have satisfied myself yesterday by going round as to the facts. I did not know exactly what questions might be put to me, and therefore I ascertained what wages they paid to their own hands, asking the questions direct, not of the masters but of the hands themselves, so that I should be prepared to answer any questions.

27438. I think we had that from Mr. Abrahams; did you hear his evidence?
I heard his evidence. In some measure it was not quite correct, but I have the evidence here of various tailors, and if it is of any use to you I shall be pleased to give it.

27439. Of course I understand that you have gathered these figures yourself? I gathered them personally myself from the people themselves.

27440. And you believe them to be correct?
If I asked a girl what wages she got she would not tell me either more or less than the fact, I suppose.

27441. We shall be glad to hear what you have got to say on that?
One tailor that I visited had four men machinists whom he paid 15 s., 10 s., 12 s., and 36 s.; four apprenticed girls to whom he paid 3 s., 4 s., 7 s., and 3 s.; six ordinary working girls 20 s., 18 s., 15 s., 15 s., 15 s., and 16 s.; three men pressers, 36 s., 10 s., and 5 s.

27442. Lord Clinton.] Was the master present when you got this information?

He was. And the average earnings of this tailor from our place during the last four weeks were 17 l. 2 s. 9 d. a week; I calculated that he paid away 12 l., leaving a balance of 5 l. 2 s. 9 d. That is one case. I do not know whether I am to go into any other.

27443. Chairman.] Do you consider that to be a fair average example?
I have some smaller men here that I visited; I do not know whether it would be any use to give the figures in their cases.

27444. Are they paying less?
Some less, and some about that price. Another case I have, he employs his own two daughters, and two girl machinists; the two daughters I calculated to have 15 s. a week each; the two girls, 22 s. 6 d., and 20 s.; two apprentices, 15 s. each; five hands, 17 s. 6 d., 16 s., 12 s., 8 s., and 8 s.; one man fitter, 30 s.; one youth 18 years of age, 27 s.; and one errand boy, 3 s. 6 d. This man only works five days in the week. He drew during the four weeks, on an average from our place, 15 l. 6 s. 10 d., and he paid his hands 9 l. 0 s. 6 d., leaving a balance of 6 l. 6 s. 4 d.

27445. I understand that all your work that is done outside is done by these tailors?

Yes. We have trouser hands for trousers which are not done by these tailors but by females; and also vest hands.

27446. These are coats?
Yes; we are talking about coats.

27447. As to the trousers and the vests, how are they made?
The out-door, you mean?

27448. The out-door?
Speaking of the vest hands, one hand earned 15 s. 9 d.

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[*Continued.*]

27449. Are the vests and trousers made by out-workers, by workpeople living in their own houses?

Yes. We have not sufficient room indoors to get all the work done; consequently we employ out-door hands.

27450. Not tailors?

Not tailors; with regard to these tailors that are general in Birmingham, the greatest part of the tailors there only apply themselves to coat-making; they never take the branch of trousers or vests.

27451. How do you pay these out-workers?

Piece-work.

27452. Can you give me what you pay them; how much the piece, I mean?

Yes; the men's coats we pay from 1 s. 9 d. to 4 s. 6 d., that is for stock work; vests we pay 9 d. to 1 s. 3 d.; cord and mole trousers from 7 d. to 10 d.; men's suits from 3 s. 6 d. to 6 s. 9 d.

27453. What does that mean, "men's suits," coat, vest, and trousers?

Coat, vest, and trousers; now ordered good. Men's ordered garments: coats, 2 s. 6 d. to 9 s.; vests, 1 s. to 9 d.; and trousers, 1 s. 3 d. to 3 s. 6 d.

27454. Can you tell me what these out-door hands can earn in trousers and vests?

Yes, I have a list here: 15 s. 9 d., 14 s. 3 d. (these are vest hands), 7 s. 9 d., 16 s., 7 s. 6 d., 5 s. 4 d., 9 s. 2 d., 8 s. 4 d., 17 s. 7 d., 23 s. 10 d. Trousers, 14 s. 11 d., 23 s. 3 d., 32 s. 5 d. (less 14 s. 6 d., which he pays away, leaving a balance of 18 s.); another hand, 22 s. 2 d.; and then there are two sisters who earn 27 s. 9 d. Those are their average earnings for the last four weeks.

27455. What would you say the average was?

The average all through you mean? I could not give that, because, two sisters were together, or a mother and a daughter, and so on.

27456. I suppose you are not able to tell how much labour is put into the garment that you pay for; you do not know whether it is the work of one person or not?

Yes; in each case I can give you whether it is one or two persons.

27457. How can you tell?

I have made inquiries. I saw the hands myself and visited their houses and know what each could do.

27458. These cases you have given us are only cases of the work of one person?

This last 27 s. 9 d. is the work of two sisters.

27459. That you have mentioned; but where you have not specially mentioned that two persons were employed we may take it to be the work of one person?

Three cases I believe I have mentioned. In one case the women earned 32 s. 5 d., less a deduction for another person, leaving 18 s.; the other case is that of one person, herself who earns 20 s. 2 d.; one woman, a Mrs. Berry.

27460. Is that about the highest that is ever earned?

Yes, she is a good hand; she has worked for us many years.

27461. What would you call an average earning for a fairly good hand?

They earn about 1 l. a week if they are very good hands.

27462. Would you say that they could earn about the same as the in-door hands, or more, or less?

About the same.

27463. Then they have to find their thread?

Yes, they have to find their thread; they buy their thread; but that amounts to a very trifling sum.

27464. I suppose

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[*Continued.*]

27464. I suppose their work is not so constant as the work of the in-door hands?

If there is the slightest slackness of trade the out-door hands feel it more than the in-door. We employ 18 cutters.

27465. That would be in-doors?

Yes, in-doors; persons that cut the garments out. Five order cutters, four apprentices, and nine stock-cutters.

27466. Are these tailors that make your coats mostly foreigners or English? They are mostly foreigners.

27467. And the trousers and vest hands?

They are all English, at least with one or two exceptions.

27468. And do the tailors who make the coats employ generally foreign labour?

Both foreign and English.

27469. Has that always been the case in Birmingham?

Yes, it has been so.

27470. Do you think the amount of foreign labour is increasing?

Well, it is very migratory. I do not know whether I can give you any information that would be useful to you; I am the treasurer of the Jewish Board of Guardians, and have a great deal to do with the foreigners that come over.

27471. If you can give us any information as to the amount of foreign labour, we shall be glad to have it?

I have a tabulated list of the number of foreigners. Last year of residents in Birmingham we had about 102 who applied to us for assistance, and of casuals, people that go through, 376. With regard to foreigners that come, if they have any means of establishing themselves by getting work in the town, we assist them all we possibly can in doing so; but when we see that there is no likelihood for them, we simply allow them to go to other towns; and these men we call casuals; we had last year 376 casuals passing through.

27472. And 102 resident?

And 102 resident poor that we help to support by giving weekly allowances to them, according to circumstances.

27473. When you speak of foreigners, are they Jews of foreign birth?

Yes, of foreign birth, men that came, for instance, from Prussia; when the Prussian Government turned a great many out, they came there; and also Russians and Poles. Some desert on account of not wishing to serve in the army; others again are thrown out of home for various reasons, and they come to England. Some old men have children there, and come thinking that they will get assistance from them, but the children are perhaps poorer than themselves when they arrive.

27474. Do they come to Birmingham from London mostly?

They mostly come to Hull; from Hull they are either sent to Sheffield, to London, to Manchester, or Birmingham, as the case may be.

27475. I suppose they go first wherever they have friends, if they have any?

Yes, where they have friends; or perhaps people tell them "There is no chance in Hull; you had better go to Birmingham; it is a large town and you may get work there," and so on. We do all we can to find them work if it is to be had.

27476. Do you take any measures to discourage their coming?

We take every measure possible, especially in the case of old men. We consider them heroes to throw themselves on the world without the slightest chance of gaining a livelihood. But in the case of young men, we start them in a little business, and see them once or twice, then they seem to prosper and get on in the world.

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[*Continued.*]

27477. What do they generally do ; do they go into the tailoring ?

Some of them learn pressing, others go into the cabinet work, others have trades, and in the case of those that have not trades there is the greatest difficulty to give them something to do, but they begin with a very small stock which we help them to, and ultimately they work themselves up, and become citizens, and some of them do well. When the sweating inquiry was about, we made stringent inquiries into the case, and our report speaks about it (*handing in a report*).

27478. Do you suppose that many of these tailors you have spoken of as being mostly foreign Jews are men who have arrived in Birmingham in a comparatively destitute condition and worked their way up ?

Yes.

27479. A good many of them ?

Yes.

27480. And you would assist them in making a start, I suppose ?

Yes ; we assist them. Generally we recommend them to places to go to work if there is any chance for them, they try for a week or a fortnight, and if they find they can get on, we hear no more of them when they are learning a trade, we assist them to keep themselves during the time, and when we find they can earn their own living we do not trouble more, but they work for themselves.

27481. Do you know anything about the hours of these people who work for the tailors who make your coats ?

They work the regular factory hours, from eight to eight.

27482. How do you know that ?

I often have had occasion to visit them periodically ; not so much now, but I have been in the trade for this last 35 years, and in former times I had to visit them, to get work done, and I had an opportunity of witnessing it.

27483. You think that, as a rule, they do not exceed the hours ?

Yes, I do think so.

27484. And the vest and trouser makers, of course, make those in their own homes, and you do not know anything about their hours ?

They do exceed the hours, because when pressure comes they very likely work very late.

27485. Do you allow your in-door hands to take any work home with them ?

Very seldom ; it must be a very exceptional circumstance.

27486. You mean under great pressure ?

Yes, under great pressure.

27487. How would you pay them ?

They are paid piece-work ; consequently it would reckon in their own work.

27488. Do you work overtime ?

We very seldom work till eight o'clock, which is what we call overtime ; they are really the hours that are permitted to us ; but in time of pressure we make use of the number of tickets that we get if we are very busy.

27489. Do you give out your work on particular days of the week to the people who work outside for you, or every day ?

We give the work out every day ; and we pay twice a week.

27490. They come and fetch it, I suppose ?

Yes, they fetch it.

27491. Is it the case that you put out more work at the close of the week ?

Yes, that is so.

27492. How

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[Continued.]

27492. How do you account for that?

I account for it especially by the order trade. A shopkeeper will take his orders on Saturday. During the week they take more orders out. We have to deal with country customers, and before the orders arrive at our place it may be Tuesday or Wednesday, and they all want the work for Saturday's trade, and the result is that the end of the week is really the most pressing.

27493. Your work is a great deal crowded in the last two or three days of the week?

Yes, in the last two or three days of the week.

27494. That, I presume, would cause these outworkers to work long hours towards the end of the week?

There are two reasons why they are crowded into the end of the week. I take it from observation. At the commencement of the week these persons employ a certain number of hands; and unless they have sufficient work in the house to make a full day's work they do not start it. They may have work out on Monday morning which is not sufficient for them to start for the whole day; they will let that work lie till Tuesday, and when they get more they will begin to make a start.

27495. So that very often they may be working only three or four days in the week?

That very often happens. They have to pay their hands when they work a whole day, and they have, no doubt, according to their own calculation, to do a certain amount of work to pay themselves, and unless they have a whole day's work for their hands to do, they do not begin as if they did, instead of their being gainers they would be losers.

27496. And in the case of the trousers and vests, I suppose the same thing occurs; there is a pressure towards the end of the week?

Yes. We are supposed to get away at the warehouse by one o'clock on Saturday, but in busy times we do not get away till, perhaps, five o'clock in the afternoon.

27497. So that the hands making your trousers and vests outside probably have to work very long hours the last two or three days of the week?

Yes, and at the beginning they are rather quiet.

27498. That, you say, at any rate, that is not your fault?

We work for country customers, and the pressure is owing to the fact that the garments are wanted for the Saturday's trade.

27499. Have you anything to say about the sanitary condition of these workshops?

I find that the workshops are not what they should be. I think, if legislation steps in, the landlords should be compelled to whitewash the places oftener than they do, and if the landlords were compelled to keep the places in thorough condition it would be a great boon to the workpeople. They are mostly poor people, and cannot afford to pay for it themselves.

27500. Lord Clinton.] I think you said that the ordinary tailors do all the work in their own workshops, and do not put out anything?

They do not put anything out.

27501. Is that by arrangement with you, or is it the practice not to put it out?

It is not the practice in Birmingham to put the work out. I have heard a great deal of middlemen, and do not really understand the meaning of that term.

27502. You put out some work to outworkers?

Yes, we give the ordinary work to hands that make the garments.

27503. In private houses?

Yes.

27504. Have you any means of knowing where these people live?

Yes, we have every means, because we take security from them that they return the work, and we have their addresses.

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27505. But

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[*Continued.*]

27505. But supposing an infectious disease were to break out in one of these private houses, would you know anything of it ?

Unless they were to tell us we should not.

27506. They are not likely to tell you, are they ?

I think not ; we do not visit them periodically, and have therefore no means of knowing.

27507. Therefore it might be that in some of these places where they were making these things infectious disease might exist ?

It might be so, certainly. If a disease took place in any of these private houses, and they did not tell us, they would go on making them ; we should not have means of knowing that there was infection in their houses.

27508. And you might have garments carrying infection brought into your house ?

If such things took place ; but I take it that there are officers to look after that.

27509. That is just the question ; are there officers who look after that ?

I do not know ; but there should be some.

27510. With regard to the private houses where garments are made, do you know whether the factory inspectors visit them ?

Yes, I know they do ; and I have always found that there is never any hindrance put in their way to prevent them from coming in.

27511. But do you think that the factory inspector has a right to visit a private house in which one person is working ?

I think if a certain amount of cubic room is required for the hand that works in a factory the very same thing should apply to a private house.

27512. But you do not know whether it does ?

It does not, I believe.

27513. That, you think, is wanted ?

I think it would be desirable. I think, just the same as these hands that work in a factory are taken care of, so that they should have a certain amount of room and ventilation, these people that work at home ought to be protected as well as those that work in workshops.

27514. But that is not so at present ?

No, that is not so.

27515. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do the people ever tell you of infectious disease being in the house ?

I have never had any complaint.

27516. I mean does anybody come to you and tell you, "I cannot take any thing out because my child has got the scarlet fever," for instance ?

That never has been done.

27517. Do you think that the number of foreign Jews is decreasing or increasing in Birmingham ?

Now, I should say, it is decreasing ; but about six or 12 months ago, when the German Government turned them out, we had a great influx then.

27518. That was for a particular reason ?

Because they were turned out from that country.

27519. But, taking the last five years, do you think that the number of foreign Jews has tended to increase or decrease ?

I do not think it has increased at all ; as far as our board is concerned, we take every measure we can, and, in many instances, though the expense is very great indeed, we send them back for the very reason that we wish in that way to show an example, so that others should not come.

27520. Did you examine any of these tailors' books in order to check the statements made by the hands as to what wages they received ?

That is a matter of impossibility, because they keep none, as a matter of fact. Their receipts we keep in our own books.

27521. The

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Mr. ROSENBERG.

[*Continued.*]

27521. The smaller tailors do not keep any books ?

They do not ; they are mostly foreigners ; they have no knowledge of doing so.

27522. I see that you pay your finishers rather low wages, ranging from 5 s. 1 d. to 10 s. a week ; is that an unskilled branch of labour ?

I have always complained of the very same thing, that the finishers do not get paid so well as the machinists ; but where machinery is brought into use the hands that can use that machinery are under better advantages than the finishers.

27523. Although the work of the finisher is just as skilled as that of the machinist ?

It is not so skilled ; but they are slower ; they have not the means of getting through the work quickly, not having the machinery to do it with.

27524. Is that because no machinery can be made to do it, or because they dislike machinery ?

First of all, no machinery can be made to do it. In the case of button-holes these used to be made by hand ; machinery is introduced now and used for that purpose.

27525. Do you think the hands themselves have any prejudice against the introduction of machinery to do the finishing work ?

It is almost impossible to have machinery to do everything ; even the button-holes though made by machines have to go to be finished after they are made by machinery.

27526. You do not think that machinery can be invented to finish ?

No.

27527. What is the wholesale price of a coat you pay 1 s. 9 d. for the labour of ?

We sell the suits altogether about from 9 s. 6 d. upwards.

27528. How much would you pay the workmen for the whole of that ?

The coat about 1 s. 9 d., the trousers about 9 d., and the waistcoat 9 d., for making.

27529. Three and three-pence ?

Yes. The materials and trimmings and so on, have to be found.

27530. What kind of suit would that be ?

It would be a very common printed cloth.

27531. I suppose when other tailors have told us this morning that the cheapest coats they made were 1 s. 9 d. and 1 s. 8 d., they meant that they paid that for labour ; not that they could possibly sell a coat for that ?

That was for labour ; for making only.

27532. *Chairman.*] Is there much competition among these tailors that do the out-work for you ?

The competition is very great. You heard the evidence this morning that the labour is paid much higher than it has been. That is accounted for by the fact that the competition between the tailors themselves is very great. If a girl gets 12 s. a week from one man, the other man would go to her and say, " I will give you 14 s. " ; and the first man will not be out-done, and says, " I will give you 16 s. " ; and by that means they are able to get the wages raised. In former times the girls' wages were much lower.

27533. Then labour is scarce ?

It is scarce in Birmingham.

27534. The demand is rather larger than the supply :

The wholesale demand for clothing is so very great, and in some places, Walsall and Dudley, the demand for country labour is less than 50 per cent. of what it is in the case of Birmingham, because in Birmingham there are so many various branches of trade where girls get picked up and are wanted.

27535. But there is great competition among the tailors ?

Among the tailors themselves, only in the sense of getting help to do the work, as mentioned above.

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Mr. ROSENBERG.

[*Continued.*

27536. Has that brought down the price that you pay them?
It has increased it, and not brought it down.

27537. But by competition among the tailors; I mean competition among themselves to get work from you and from others; that would bring the price down, would it not?

They compete, not as far as making the garments for warehouses goes, but by giving higher prices to the girls than what the girls really deserve.

27538. I mean, do they not compete against each other to get the work from the warehouses?

No, they do not; the prices are generally fixed in the warehouse, for certain garments, and this is the price, and they take it.

27539. Do you mean that if such and such a price is fixed in the warehouse, and the tailor comes and says, "I will do it for less," he would not get it?

No, he would not; because we should look upon it as mere spite on his part, and unfair to others we employ.

27540. As a matter of fact, are you paying about the same prices now that you were, say 10 years ago?

No, not so high, because the demand was not so great, and the prices for clothing were much higher then than they are now.

27541. You are paying less now?
A great deal less.

27542. And the wholesale price is a great deal less?
Considerably; the competition being very great.

27543. In fact, the selling price is declining; the price that you pay the tailors is declining, and the rate of wages is rising?

The price of wages is rising, for the simple reason that machinery has introduced a system with it that the girls, though at low prices, can earn much superior wages to what they used to do in former days, with higher-priced articles.

27544. Have many of the foreign Jews in the clothing and tailoring trade in Birmingham gone to Manchester or Leeds, or other towns?

They spread all over the country, or wherever there is work to be done.

27545. Has there been any special emigration out of Birmingham to Leeds?

Yes, a great many have gone. If there is slackness of trade and we find that there is not sufficient work in Birmingham we send them either to Leeds or other places.

27546. We have been told in evidence that there is a tendency for the wholesale clothing trade to concentrate itself in Leeds; do you agree in that?

Yes; it is so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. Alderman WILLIAM COOK, is called in; and having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

27547. *Chairman*] YOU were formerly a Member of Parliament?
Yes.

27548. For what constituency?
For East Birmingham.

27549. You are now an alderman of the city?
I am.

27550. And chairman of the health committee?
I am.

27551. When

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Mr. Alderman Cook.

[Continued.]

27551. When was the health committee constituted?

About 14 years ago. I was appointed chairman of the health committee in 1874; that was the first year of the committee; I have been chairman ever since, with the exception of one year when I was mayor of the city.

27552. Have you recently personally inquired into the sanitary condition of the workshops?

I am always doing it; I am always visiting these places. My attention gets drawn to different places in the city, and I go and visit them with the officer.

27553. What have you to say as to the sanitary conditions of the tailors' workshops, and the homes of the people who are doing tailoring work?

Our attention was specially drawn to them some time since by an article in the "Lancet;" and when our attention was drawn to them I visited most of the premises, as far as we were able to ascertain them. We applied for particulars of the different places referred to in that report, but we were not able to obtain them; the person who, I understood, accompanied the correspondent of the "Lancet" refused to give them to the medical officer of health; but we were able to trace several of them, and we reported to the city council that we had visited a number of places where we found that tailors' workpeople were employed, and "in most cases the ventilation was good and the air space ample, the latter ranging from 448 to 178 cubic feet per head. In some cases the closets were filthy and too near the workroom, and steps have been taken" by the committee, as far as practicable, "to remedy these and other insanitary conditions;" and we also reported that we were of opinion that the report of the "Lancet" was very much exaggerated.

27554. Those places that you allude to, were they workshops, or domestic workshops, or what?

I think only one or two workshops; most of them were attics or garrets in private dwelling-houses. Some allusion has been made to the question of closet accommodation. I may say that our rule for years has been to provide one privy or closet to every two houses; but as these houses get occupied by people brought in to do tailoring work, of course then the accommodation provided would not be sufficient for the increased number of people. What we are anxious to see is that these places should be registered. If these places could be registered we should be able then, when a person applied for a register, to have the place measured up, and so certify how many might, with proper regard for health, be allowed to work in that place; because our greatest difficulty is this: they are here to-day and, as the saying is, are gone to-morrow, and we miss them altogether; that is our great difficulty in regard to them.

27555. Do you think that all places where work is carried on should be registered?

I do.

27556. Even where the persons employed are all members of the same family?

No; I make an exception there. I think, when anyone employed out of the family is engaged, then the place should be registered, in order that proper regard might be had for decency and proper accommodation provided.

27557. Do you know whether it is the case that in many cases members of the same family only are employed?

I know that is so. I visited a place on Saturday last where only two were employed, and they were both members of the family.

27558. Why do you think it inadvisable that such places should be registered?

I have a great regard for people having a house to themselves, and not being intruded upon when it is their own family, unless a case can be shown very strongly otherwise.

27559. You think it would be too great an interference with the family?

With the right of the subject.

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Mr. Alderman COOK.

[Continued.]

27560. Now I may take it that you think that on the whole the sanitary condition of these places is fairly good?

Yes, I think so. Of course I should be glad to see good workshops; but we never receive any complaint as the public authority.

27561. We have had it mentioned in evidence several times that infectious diseases are very likely propagated and carried by means of clothing; do you think that that is the case?

I think that is possible, but certainly there has been no great complaint in Birmingham. We have no compulsory notification, but I think we have the hearty co-operation of the medical officers, and I think, as a rule, we get all cases of zymotic disease reported to us almost immediately, and I think you will find that Birmingham is noted for having a very low zymotic death-rate.

27562. But supposing cases are reported to you, you could not prevent work being carried on in those places, could you?

Then we should send the inspector there, and if we had reasonable cause we should enter and see that every means was taken for the prevention of the spread of any disease; but as far as I know, in the case of the Birmingham people they always give us every facility, and never want the slightest compulsion in any way.

27563. Lord Clinton.] Do you have to get a warrant in that case you have just spoken of?

No; we enter then, if we have a reasonable cause, without a warrant.

27564. Chairman.] In a case where work is carried on in one of these places, employing perhaps some hired labour, and the children have the scarlet fever or measles, you would have no power, would you, to stop that work?

No, I do not think we have any compulsory powers; but we do get all the scarlet fever cases removed in Birmingham at the present time, I believe. We have a proper hospital for them, and we get them notified to us at once instead of having any trouble.

27565. Do you think that compulsory notification in such cases is desirable?

Our city council is divided. My own personal opinion is that we ought to have compulsory notification.

27566. Do you think there ought to be some power also of preventing work being done where there is any danger of infectious disease being carried by means of it?

Yes; I think we should have the power then of preventing any spread of it.

27567. Do the inspectors under the Factory Act, and the health officers, work together well; do they assist each other?

We do; we work thoroughly together; we exchange documents; that is to say, when the factory inspectors find anything which belongs to the health department, they communicate it to us; and anything in the nature of overcrowding, and so on, we always communicate at once to the factory inspector for Birmingham.

27568. Then I should gather that you do not think it would be necessary to give the factory inspectors any sanitary powers?

I think it would be unwise to have divided authority upon that point.

27569. The present system, you think, works well?

I think so.

27570. Can you give the Committee any information as to the condition of these people; their rates of wage, or anything of that kind?

Yes. I went round to about 20 of them when this report was in the "Lancet;" and knowing I was coming here to-day, I went round on Saturday morning to three or four. I found the people very happy and contented. They seemed to keep no information from me that I asked for; and my own
strong

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[Continued.]

strong opinion, knowing a great deal about manufacturers, being a manufacturer myself, is that females get better wages in the tailoring trade than almost in any other trade in Birmingham; and I think myself that the trade is much more suitable for a female than many of the trades where they employ them.

27571. These people that you visited where what kind of people?

There were very few young children; I do not think I noticed one on Saturday last when I visited these places; they were some of them married women.

27572. Were they all in domestic workshops?

They were all in what I call attics or garrets that I visited on Saturday, and they were mostly young women, some of them married. They were getting very good wages, and seemed contented, and I noticed the places. Generally in one or two places a little limewash would have been beneficial, but on the whole there was no over-crowding in any of the places I visited.

27573. Then I gather from you that you do not think there is any ground for special complaint as regards the condition of the people employed in the clothing trade in Birmingham?

No; we have never had any complaint to the city council.

22574. Lord *Clinton*.] Were these attics you visited bed-rooms?

Yes.

27575. And were they used as bed-rooms?

They are not used as bed-rooms now; they were built for that purpose.

27576. You have never seen any case in which work was done in attics which people were using as bed-rooms?

I think in some cases beds would be put in at night.

27577. But did you see any beds in the rooms that you visited?

No, not one.

27578. They were rooms used entirely for the work?

Yes.

27579. Lord *Monkswell*.] You say in some places you found only 178 cubic feet space per person; do you think that is enough?

No, I should like to see more. I like to see as near 500 cubic feet as I can get. They vary from 448 to 178, those we visited and measured up.

27580. Do you find many under 200?

Not many; very few indeed.

27581. What sort of proportion; two or three per cent.?

I should think, certainly, not more than 5 per cent. under 200 cubic feet.

27582. What should you say is a fair average?

Of the places that we saw I should think they would average about 250 to 300 cubic feet.

27583. And you would consider 250 cubic feet fairly sufficient; would you?

My idea is 500 cubic feet, what I should like to see.

27584. But do you think the sanitary inspector would be justified in making any observations if he found less than 250 feet?

No, I do not think he would, not under the present circumstances. They reported in this case that the ventilation was sufficient, and the air space ample; that was the report of the medical officer of health and the inspector of nuisances, who were with me at the time.

27585. Did he mean to say that, in the worst cases, 178 cubic feet was ample; or that, taking one place with the other, on the average it was sufficient?

(11.)

X

Taking

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Mr. Alderman Cook.

[Continued.]

Taking one place with the other. I think, if they had been all 178 cubic feet, he would have condemned them; but that small number was quite the exception.

27586. He did not even condemn those that were under 200; he did not make any special report as to there being some rooms under 200?

No.

27587. But would you be inclined to think that he might as well have done so; do you think it would be the duty of the sanitary officer, as you understand it, to say that there ought to be at least 200 cubic feet?

I think they would be of that opinion.

27588. And you yourself would say that 500 cubic feet was not an excessive amount?

No, I should say not; but I should think 300 would be an average that would do very well.

27589. You would rather have 500 if you could get it; if not, you would take 300?

Yes.

27590. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of the hours of work that these people have?

Yes. I questioned them very closely about that, because I have something to do with a trade society; and in nearly all cases they worked from eight a.m. to seven p.m., and they had one hour for dinner, and half-an-hour for tea. But I found that, as a rule, a very few of them work on the Monday; they generally begin on the Tuesday morning; and, as a rule, they do little on Saturday. They generally begin on Tuesday, and work till Friday night; but they observe "Saint Monday" thoroughly, I think, in that business.

27591. *Earl of Derby.*] They work long hours, but they only work four days a week, according to you?

That is so; they scarcely ever begin on the Monday, not regularly.

27592. *Chairman.*] Do you know at all, the process, how the trade is carried on in Birmingham; how many hands, for instance, a suit of ready-made clothes would go through, between the person who buys it and these people in the attics, who make it up?

I am not able to answer.

27593. Do you know whether the reason of their not working on Mondays is because they cannot get the work till Tuesday?

I think it is because they do not care about taking the work out.

27594. You are not quite sure whether they can get it out?

No, I am not.

27595. *Lord Clinton.*] Does that apply to men and women?

Yes; the women work under the men.

27596. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of the question of foreign Jewish labour in Birmingham?

Yes. As far as my experience went in questioning (and I made myself very free in that), I found a good many Polish Jews and a good many Germans.

27597. Do you know whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing?

I am not able to say.

27598. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?

What I feel, and I think the medical officer of health and the inspector would agree with me, is that we ought to have some means of knowing how many people are going to work in these attics; because if we had the means, if they were going to add to a particular house four or even six to work in the attic then I think we should be able as a sanitary authority to say to the owner of the premises, "Well, if you are going to have these, so many more on your premises,

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[Continued.]

premises, you must provide further closet accommodation ;” and I think by that means we should be able to preserve morality, and promote, to some degree at any rate, a better state of things.

27599. I understand, then, that you think you have sufficient powers ; but your difficulty is that you cannot find out where these people are working, and cannot trace them ?

We are quite unable.

27600. And that your remedy would lie in that direction ?

You see it costs them very little for what they require ; the purchase of a sewing machine, a stove, and that kind of thing ; they can move that from one house to another with great facility ; and without we have some means we really cannot trace them. I shall be glad to hand in the report which refers to the report in the “Lancet.”

27601. That is what you have given us already the substance of ?

Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. SEYMOUR HENRY KNYVETT is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

27602. *Chairman.*] ARE you one of Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Factories ?
I am.

27603. For the district of Birmingham ?
Yes.

27604. Were you asked to bring up some witnesses, by the Clerk of the Committee ?

A week ago I had a letter from Mr. Thesiger mentioning certain witnesses to me, and asking me if I thought them advisable witnesses, and I said yes, and asking me to recommend some manufacturer possibly whom he had not mentioned, and I had great pleasure in recommending Mr. Rosenberg, whose evidence you have had to-day. Mr. Thesiger subsequently wrote to me, telling me that certain witnesses had not come (I only got that on Saturday morning), and asking me to bring, if possible, some other Jewish operatives working for one of the tailors. I only had that letter on Saturday ; I had no idea before Saturday that any Jewish operatives were wanted, or else I would have made it my duty, as far as I was able, to have brought some up. On Saturday I went about Birmingham trying to find operatives ; but on Saturday no work goes on practically ; and I saw a gentleman whom you asked to come up and who has not come, and I consulted him, and he promised to endeavour to find some Jewish operatives who had worked for a Jewish tailor, and who were not working for a Jewish tailor at present, so that their evidence might be uncontrolled ; but I have had no communication from him.

27605. I have here a letter to our Committee Clerk which mentions you, and I will read it without giving the name : “In reply to your communication of the 6th instant, I beg to say that I shall be unable to appear as a witness before the Royal Commission” (he means the Committee) “on Sweating ; situated as I am at present, I believe it will seriously affect my interest (I mean in regard to getting work in the future) to appear. When writing to Lord Dunraven I had no idea I should be required as a witness, and did not desire to be one. I have seen Her Majesty’s Inspector of Factories and Workshops, S. H. Knyvett, Esq., and having fully explained my reasons for not attending, I hope it will not be considered disrespectful to the Royal Commission on my part, for it is simply a living for myself and family in the future” ?

I recommended him to write, because I thought it the best thing to do. He

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Mr. KNYVETT.

[Continued.]

told me exactly what he had written to you, and I thought I had better leave it.

27606. Do you think there has been any reluctance on the part of operatives to give evidence?

I think so.

27607. What have you to say, or have you anything to say, as to the sanitary condition of the factories and workshops that come under your notice?

I have visited a great number of these workshops in Birmingham, I should think over 100, since this matter has been brought prominently before me; and in what I have seen I think the thing that strikes me most is the prevalence of dirt in the shops, dirt which could be removed, which is not at all the dirt of the structure or the fault of deficiency of closet accommodation or anything of that sort, but simply dirt which would be removable by soap and water, which arises from the fault of the occupant.

27608. That would be in factories and workshops?

That would be in workshops.

27609. With regard to these places, which have been described by Mr. Alderman Cook as garrets, would they come under your jurisdiction at all?

They would, mostly.

27610. Would they, if there were only members of the same family employed in them?

They come to a limited extent under my jurisdiction. I have never had any opposition thrown in my way in Birmingham in the matter of inspection; I have never been refused admittance to any place whatever. Of course, in a place of that nature, if opposition was offered, I should have to apply for a warrant.

27611. Then do you think that compulsory registration of all places where work is carried on, other than those where members of the same family only were employed, would not meet with opposition on the part of the people?

I think we should have great difficulty in having it carried out. I do not think there would be organised opposition. You may know that at present the law exists that all factories are required to be registered when they are opened; that is the law at present; and, practically, I should not think that 5 per cent. of the factories that are opened do report themselves. The duty of finding out the factories entirely devolves on myself; and if that applies to a factory I think it would apply in a far greater extent to a small workshop.

27612. What is the penalty for factories not being registered?

I never heard of its being put in force; I think it is 5 l.

27613. Do you know much about the clothing trade in Birmingham?

I have made as exhaustive an inquiry into it as I have been able to do; it is a matter of great difficulty, I think, for a person in my position to find anything of any very great value in the way of figures. Of course I have had to inquire from the hands very much in the presence of the master, and I have always felt a certain doubt as to the value of the information under those circumstances.

27614. Do you know whether the middleman exists to a large extent?

My own impression is that the middleman, as I understand it, does not exist. There are a great number of places where they work for warehouses and some retail tailors, where they employ their own hands; and the practice is, that they are not allowed to farm the work out to other tailors. Therefore, I personally do not consider them middlemen; I have always looked on them in the light of workmen living off the premises.

27615. Living off the premises and employing their own labour?

Employing their own labour. I have never met one, I may say, who employs people and does not work himself. I have never met anybody who is simply an employer without being a workman.

27616. Are

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Mr. KNYVETT.

[Continued.]

27616. Are many of them Jews?
Most of them.

27617. How long have you been in Birmingham?
Six years and a half.

27618. Have you any idea whether the number of Jews is increasing or diminishing?

The number of Jews coming under my observation is increasing; but that, probably, is the result more or less of the extra attention which naturally has been given to them since this inquiry.

27619. Have you any information to give to the Committee as to the hours of work, or the wages they earn?

With regard to the wages, I have listened to all the evidence that has been given to-day, and I certainly could not give you any supplementary to it. I certainly found one place where, in coat-making, the hands were supposed to receive from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. 6 d. a day. That is a lower rate of wage than I have heard mentioned to-day.

27620. Would that be a common thing?

Very uncommon indeed. With regard to the hours of work, undoubtedly the work is crowded into the end of the week. I have found from experience that there is no work on Monday; the work gradually accumulates. I have the overtime notices sent in to me, and I find that by far the larger number of overtime notices refer to Friday, which would be the result of the work accumulating towards the end of the week; but no firm nearly runs through the number of overtime notices allowed in the year, that is to say, I have never received 48 notices from any one tailor; I should doubt whether I have received 24.

27621. Are there a large number of small shops, that is to say, shops employing four or half-a-dozen hands?

I should think that there might be about 80. It is very difficult to tell you correctly, because they change so much. I never know where they are; they move about. There is one tailor within my knowledge who has moved four times during the last 12 months; and it is perfectly impossible to follow them under the present system.

27622. Did he move in order to get out of your jurisdiction, do you think?

My impression is that he moved because the house got dirty. The principle in Birmingham is to take a house and stay in it till it gets dirty, and then go to a new house.

27623. These people could always get out of your jurisdiction by discharging a protected hand, or a hired hand, if they were employing one?

Entirely.

27624. So that they might be subject to your inspection this week, and not subject to it next week?

That is a very great defect in the law, but it is so.

27625. Do you find that much practical inconvenience arises from that?

Not so much in the tailoring trade as in some others. I should like the law altered in that respect, especially in the gun trade.

27626. Do you think that the Factory Acts are largely evaded, or that they are tolerably well observed?

I have been working in other districts for some years; and my impression is that they are far better observed in Birmingham than I recollect them to have been at that time in those districts.

27627. You think, generally speaking, that they are observed?

I think they are observed. It is a little difficult to tell, but my impression is that they are observed. The only way, if I may mention it, in which we could possibly tell, with regard to a tailor's shop, whether the Act is being observed

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Mr. KNYVETT.

[Continued.]

is, by seeing a light in the attic window, or hearing the machine. If we neither see a light nor hear a machine, if there is only hand-stitching going on, it would be impossible to tell; you would not have the right of entry, and would not be able very much to tell whether anything was going on.

27628. Have you not the right of entry at any time?

Not unless you have a reasonable cause to suppose that work is going on; if a man met you at the door, and refused you admittance, and you could not see a light, and could not hear the machine, I doubt whether you could force your way in.

27629. You do not have complaints made to you?

When I first went to Birmingham I had more complaints, but now I have had hardly any for some time.

27630. From whom do they come; from some of the men?

Not from the men, but from rivals.

27631. I should gather that you agree with Mr. Alderman Cook that there is some difficulty in finding the whereabouts of these shops, garrets, and so on, where the work is carried on?

Very great difficulty.

27632. Do you agree also that there ought to be compulsory registration?

Certainly. I think it would be difficult to carry it out, but I should try it. I should carry it further than Alderman Cook. I should make everybody register, family workshops and all. I think if they have a little extra work they would put another hand on, and not confine it to the family; and I should like to know where all these people were.

27633. Earl of *Derby*.] I think you spoke of many of the workshops as being in a normal condition of dirt?

Yes.

27634. Have you not power to interfere in that case?

You have power to compel whitewashing; but the dirt that I complain of is ordinary domestic dirt. I have to go over the houses to find my way to the workshop, and I am able to judge of the general condition of the rooms on the way.

27635. But you are not able to say that it is of a nature or an amount to be injurious to health?

No.

27636. And, therefore, it does not come within your jurisdiction?

Not at all; it is simply unpleasant to look at.

27637. Lord *Clinton*.] You said that you would have to get a warrant to enter a private house; on what ground would you apply for that?

It is a conjectural case; I have never had to do that; but if I had reason to believe that the child of the occupier was being worked full time, and if the father appeared at the door and denied me admittance, the only way I could find out would be by obtaining a warrant.

27638. What power would you have, then?

Then I should have the same power as in an ordinary workshop. The rules as to the employment would not be exactly the same; but if I found a child, for instance, being employed without school attendance, I could deal with that.

27639. But supposing you found that the family only dwelt in the rooms?

I should have no power; there is no legislation at present with regard to overcrowding in domestic workshops, or any legislation touching sanitation. I should have no power in reference to whitewashing, or providing privy accommodation.

27640. You would have to leave that to the sanitary inspector?

Entirely. I should report it to him.

27641. I was

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Mr. KNYVETT.

[*Continued.*

27641. I was going to ask you, is it your duty to report it to him?

I should do it practically; I think it would be my duty. In Birmingham we have the system of mutual reports; we report to the sanitary authorities, and the sanitary authorities report to us.

27642. But you are not bound to do that?

I think it is my duty to do it.

27643. You do it as a fact?

I do it.

27644. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether wages are rising or falling in Birmingham?

I cannot tell you. I think myself that the hands may not get very much through want of trade; if there was enough trade to enable them to have five days' work a week, I think their wages would be far better than in most of the Birmingham trades. I mentioned a trade once, but that particular trade found fault with me for mentioning them; but I am sure that a good many trades in Birmingham do not pay such good wages as the tailoring trade.

27645. Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee?

I do not think there is anything.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ROWLAND TINKER, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

27646. *Chairman.*] ARE you an Inspector under the Factory Act?

Yes.

27647. In the same district as Mr. Knyvett?

I assist Mr. Knyvett in his district, it is a large district, and I am one of the junior inspectors.

27648. Have you heard Mr. Knyvett's evidence?

I have.

27649. Have you anything you wish to add to it?

No; only that having had a large experience of factory life I have taken more interest perhaps in the working of these places than Mr. Knyvett, and I have made a thorough inquiry into how the work was carried on, wages received, and have formed my own conclusion.

27650. Tell us what conclusion you have arrived at. First of all, how long have you been in this district?

Three years and three months.

27651. What have you to say about the condition of the people working in the clothing trade in Birmingham?

I may say that I have visited every tailor's shop in Mr. Knyvett's district. On going my first round I found that most of these Jews were coat hands, made nothing but coats. I found some trouser hands. I went to the large employers of labour and asked them if they would furnish me with a list of their waistcoat hands. They were kind enough to do so. I visited those places, and found that the waistcoats were principally made in private houses over which we have no control.

27652. The men, I suppose, working at some other trade, and the wives and children working at the waistcoats?

Yes.

27653. The trousers the same?

No; we have several places where they make trousers, but they generally make them for the bespoke trade, not for the stock or slop trade, and I find that

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Mr. TINKER.

[Continued.]

they get from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. per pair of trousers from the bespoke tailor. They pay their women 1 s. a pair, but that does not include machining, pressing, fitting, or basting. I find that these women can make very good wages.

27654. What have they got to do for the 1 s.?

Merely the sewing up of the seams and putting together; one of the men does the pressing off and the finishing. There is a machinist employed who does the machining.

27655. These, I understand, are made in shops?

In shops.

27656. Which would come under your jurisdiction?

Yes; I may say that I do not think there is any trade in any town in England where the wages are better, where the people seem better off, and there are no complaints.

27657. And as to the sanitary condition?

So far as my experience goes, I have the same fault to find with other branches of trade as in the tailoring trade. Many times I have to order lime-washing, as I have in other branches of business.

27658. A great deal of this work is carried on in dwelling-rooms, which you cannot enter, and have nothing to do with at first?

That is in a domestic workshop, where there are only the family; but where they employ women and men, they have a workshop principally at the top of the building; and where we find that they have not a sufficient number of cubic feet for each person, we stop the people from working in the place until they have reduced the number according to the Workshop Act.

27659. Do you know whether it is the custom for workers working on these coats or trousers that are made in shops, to take the work home?

I have not found a case where they take the work home at night after they have done a day's work for their employer.

27660. You think that that does not occur?

No, I should just like to mention about the middlemen. I consider a middleman is one who takes work from an employer and gives it to another man, who gets it done at a cheaper rate. I do not think there is such a man in Birmingham.

27661. We have it in evidence that the large firm does a part of the work on their own premises, and puts out a part of the work to a number of tailors at so much a-piece, and that they get the work done on their own premises?

Yes.

27662. And that they do not put the work out to anybody else?

Not to any middleman between the worker and the employer.

27663. In one sense the tailor might not be a middleman, but in another sense he might be so called, might he not, because he intervenes between the man who is the worker and the manufacturer or large firm, or whatever you call them, from whom he takes the work?

Only so far as this, that if I am one of these tailors I employ a number of hands, we will say, four women and four men; but I superintend the whole of the work myself.

27664. But you do not sell it to the retailer?

No.

27665. You are working for somebody else?

I pay my men and women who are working for me, and take the work back to the employer; no one intervenes between the master and the worker.

27666. And the man who employs you disposes of it again?

Yes.

27667. Is

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Mr. TINKER.

[*Continued.*]

27667. Is there anything else you would like to say?

No; only that I agree with what Mr. Knyvett said with regard to registration.

27668. I gather from you that you think that the tailoring trade is in a more flourishing condition than many other trades in Birmingham, and that as far as the sanitation is concerned it is in about the same condition?

It is about the same.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next,
Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 16^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Duke of NORFOLK.
Earl of DERBY.
Earl BROWNLOW.
Viscount GORDON (*Earl of Aberdeen*).
Lord CLINTON.
Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.
Lord FOXFORD (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).
Lord SANDHURST.
Lord MONKSWELL.
Lord THRING.
Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. JOHN BELMER GOODMAN, is called in ; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows :

27669. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business ?
A journeyman tailor.

27670. Do you hold any office in the Liverpool Operative Tailors' Society ?
Not at present.

27671. You have ?
I have.

27672. What office have you held ?
I have been a member of the executive council for a period of three years,
from July 1885 to July 1888.

27673. Since 1888 you have had no official connection with it ?
Except occasionally as a member of the committee. At present I hold no
office ; but from July 1881 to 1882 I was the secretary of the Liverpool
branch.

27674. Have you got a thorough knowledge of the tailoring trade in
Liverpool ?

Thorough. I have lived there for 17 years this month.

27675. And worked as a tailor ?
And worked as a tailor in some of the first-class shops. My present firm I
have been with for nearly eight years.

27676. Do you consider that sweating exists in your trade in Liverpool ?
Yes, to an increasing extent.

27677. What do you understand by sweating ?
I take it that sweating means the giving out of work to a middleman
who employs other people at a very great deal less than he gets paid for it, and
who makes a living out of their labours ; sweats their labour. That is as we
understand it in Liverpool. In Liverpool the principal work is the bespoke
work. Relatively speaking, considering the importance of the city, there is not
(11. a very

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Mr. GOODMAN.

[Continued.]

a very large amount of cheap work made there; there are a few large firms who make cheap work, who are wholesale clothiers, but the majority of the firms make bespoke work, ordered work, and it is in reference to those firms especially that I should like to speak to your Lordships about this system.

27678. When you say that the middleman makes a profit out of the labour he employs, I presume you mean that he makes a profit out of the difference between the price which he gets paid and the price which he pays?

Yes. For instance, with regard to some of the firms, in trousers we know they pay 3 s. 6 d. to the middleman, and he gets them made for, in some cases, 1s. 3 d. per pair, in others, 1 s. 6 d. per pair; and in that way, in some cases, we calculate he makes a profit of 30 or 40 per cent. even after he has paid his expenses.

27679. Is most of the trade carried on in Liverpool through these middlemen?

I think it would be safe to answer yes to that question; at any rate I can say this with confidence, that a very, very large proportion of the trade is at present carried on under that system. Your Lordships, I believe, had a statement from me, sent to you by your Commissioner, and I have a copy of that statement. I presume your Lordship has read it. This (*producing a document*) is a copy of a statement which your Commissioner had from me in Liverpool; not an exact copy, but substantially accurate.

27680. Have you been examining into this so-called sweating lately especially?

Yes; I myself and another member of the branch were employed to do this special work.

27681. Employed by whom?

By our branch committee, acting through the instructions of our Executive Council. We were employed to make the best inquiries we could according to our time and capacity. That is really the report that I drew up and presented to the branch. You see it is dated March of the present year.

27682. I understand that your branch appointed a committee to inquire into this matter, and you were one of the committee which inquired and reported to your branch?

Yes; I was the principal party affected by the matter, as I had to do most of the work, and really made the inquiries. Your Lordships will see by that report that I have classified it a little; it is only brief. I give the number of workers that were in the City some years ago before the sweating system affected us so seriously; and then I give the classes of shops and the numbers of the shops. To some extent, as far as I could ascertain them (it is very difficult I must say to obtain the prices). I give the prices paid. And then recently there has a system sprung up in the town within the last four or five years, or so, which we term sweating on the premises.

27683. Let us begin with the shops; what have you got to say about them? With the number of shops and the classes, do you mean?

27684. Yes, and their sanitary condition?

Do you mean the outworkers' workshops or the workshops generally of the town?

27685. I am alluding rather to the shops belonging to these persons whom you denominate sweaters?

I must say, with regard to the sweaters' workshops, that they are, generally speaking, in a very fair condition; there are some few which, in my opinion, ought not to be allowed to be used as workshops. But I must say, that since agitation commenced, say from last spring, there has been a great deal of activity displayed by the local factory inspectors, and some of the worst places have been closed; places which we had discovered the previous September, September 1877, when we deputed eight of our number to go round the city and

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and make inquiries as to the extent of this system and the places where the people worked. Since that time, and since the agitation commenced, and your Lordships' Committee has been sitting, there has been a considerable improvement in some of the shops; in fact some of them have been closed altogether; some of the worst places have been closed, and others have been cleansed and whitewashed, and structural alterations made, and so on. So that I think, speaking now generally, I may say that these workshops, in comparison with the workshops of the employers who have nearly all their trade made on their premises, are in a very fair condition, and will compare favourably with the workshops of the employers who have their work made on their premises. I think, speaking generally, their sanitary condition is very fair

27686. How many hands are generally employed in these shops?

Perhaps your Lordship will allow me to make a general statement with regard to the number of workers in the town.

27687. Yes?

Soon after I went to Liverpool, the Committee ordered a census to be taken of the people in the tailoring trade working in the town; and then it was ascertained, so far as we could ascertain the number, that there were about 1,400 men and some few women; the figures were not taken as to the women, but there were few then. There were 1,400 men, as far as we knew, working in the tailors' shops in Liverpool. At that time there was very little sweating in Liverpool; that is 15 years ago; nearly all the work was made on the employers' own premises, according to the statement or log which was then generally paid. Since 1880 I may say that a considerable alteration has taken place. Lately, in fact only the week before last, our committee had occasion to go to the shops of the town where our men are employed, and they found that at the present moment there are only 800 men; the exact number they found was 798, but making a few allowances, I think, if you were to say 850, that would be the outside figure for the whole of the men employed in what we may term the regular workshops of Liverpool.

27688. What do you mean by "regular workshops"?

Those are the workshops belonging to firms who do employ men inside. There are different classes of shops in Liverpool, which I will refer to presently, and then you will understand me a little better, perhaps. In these shops, which I term the regular workshops, there are, as I say, at the present time about 850 men employed, making every allowance; and at the time I mentioned, 15 years ago, there were 1,400 men so employed in those shops. And in addition to these, in the sweaters' or out-workers' workshops, there are, according to the number obtained by the deputation I have already alluded to, which went around the city in September 1887, 250 men, or rather there were found 250 men at that date. I think there may be a few more now, I am not quite certain, but 250 would be as near a figure as I could say. That would be about 1,100 men as against 1,400 men 15 years ago. In addition to those figures there are at the present moment a great number of females, women and young girls, employed in Liverpool. Fifteen years ago, as I have mentioned to your Lordships, there were but a few, probably not more than 200 women employed in Liverpool; and, according to the report I have alluded to of September 1887, at that time there were 226 women employed on the premises of what I term the regular workshops, that is, 226 working with the men in the regular workshops. Three hundred and eighty is the number which we found working on the sweaters' or out-workers' premises along with the 250 men I have spoken of. These were found working in 139 workshops, distributed in different parts of the city. So that your Lordships see that instead of their being, as formerly, 1,400 men employed under the regular system, skilled men employed under the regular system, there are at the very outside about 1,100 men, a difference of 300 men, and the places of the 300 men have been taken by about 620 women.

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27689. There are 850 men who work inside what you call the regular workshops, and 250 in the sweaters' out-workshops?

Yes; in addition there are about 620 women. That is, I am sure, a very low figure; I am sure there are far more myself, though it is very difficult to obtain correct figures in a large city like Liverpool, because of the difficulty in finding out the places which was so great at first, and because of the queer places they work in, and because of the work being new to us. Really, I believe, there are far more than 620 women employed in the tailoring trade in Liverpool; but these were the figures obtained at that period. So that the places of the 300 men have been taken by over 600 women. To that extent we have been affected by the sweating system at Liverpool as regards numbers of people working. Together with that fact you must bear in mind that the tailoring trade of Liverpool has enormously increased; so that if the work was now carried on under fair and regular conditions, as it formerly was, by something like skilled workmen, there would be employment for, I am sure, a very great many more men in Liverpool than there is to-day; but the alteration in the system of working, the great increase of machinery, the large number of women and children employed, together with the system under which they are employed, the long hours of work, and the way they are driven in some places by the sweaters, all these things together have completely revolutionised the trade of Liverpool, and have taken away the labour from hundreds of men, and that labour has been given to inferior and unskilled people, and they get very much less wages for making the work than they did some years ago.

27690. You have mentioned machinery; the use of machinery has, I presume, facilitated the production, so that the same number of hands can turn out a great deal more work?

That is so.

27691. Do you object to that?

No, we do not object to that; we object to the way in which it is used; we object to the small prices paid; and the principal objection we have is to the fact that by the aid of this machinery and the system combined, the middleman who really has very little invested in the trade, and, in the majority of cases, is not a tailor at all, but in very many cases is a foreigner who knew no particular trade, but came here and has got into the tailoring trade, is making a good living out of the system, whereas the skilled workers are in many cases idle, because the middleman gets most of the work because he can make it cheaper under the system.

27692. From what you say it would follow that female labour has taken the place of male labour to a considerable extent?

To a very considerable extent; fully to the extent of one-third, I should say.

27693. Do you object to that?

Oh, no.

27694. Then what I understand you object to is the employment of unskilled labour?

The employment of unskilled and underpaid labour.

27695. The employment of unskilled labour and the payment of an inefficient wage?

Yes; and the long hours of work, together with the system employed by them?

27696. And those facts, as I understand you, are brought about by the existence of this system of carrying on the trade by means of middle men?

Yes; it is largely due, in my opinion, to the non-provision of workshop accommodation by the employers; and I wish, on that point, to direct your Lordships' attention to a resolution which was passed by the Triennial Conference of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, held in Dublin last August. A resolution was there passed, stating that, in the opinion of that conference, the increase of sweating was due, in a very large measure, to the non-provision of

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of workshop accommodation by the employers; and I myself believe that that is so; in fact, with regard to Liverpool, I can state that it is so; to a very large extent the sweating system is owing to that fact. There are at the present moment a number of shops in Liverpool which have no workshops; the whole of their trade is made outside, under the sweating system, and in domestic workshops by female vestmakers. There are nine firms in Liverpool the whole of which have their trade made under this system, employing nobody on the premises; they have no workshops. So that you see the statement I have just made is entirely correct as regards those shops. These nine firms have a considerable quantity of trade, and must employ a considerable number of workpeople; and we maintain that if the law required these employers, as we think it should, to provide workshops for their trade to be made in, those workshops to be registered and under proper factory inspection and supervision, that would meet that part of the case. At the present moment the trade is made in different parts of the town under this system. The factory inspector may or may not have a knowledge of it; at any rate it is extremely difficult, even for a tailor, to find out where it is made, so secret do they keep it, and so difficult is it to find out where it is made.

27697. Now, can you tell the Committee anything as to the hours worked; you have spoken of long hours?

The hours worked, in my opinion, are too long. I do not know of any glaring case of infraction of the Factory Act; I have heard of it, but I cannot verify it. I did hear some few weeks ago that in one case the women were seen coming out of the largest trousers shop in Liverpool at 11 o'clock on Saturday night; but as I could not verify that, I merely state that I heard so.

27698. Do you mean that the hours that they are allowed to work under the Factory Act are too long?

I do mean that; I think they are too long for women and young persons especially. Considering the nature of the employment, the rooms, and heated atmosphere in which they have to work, and the way in which they have to work, and the hard toil it is, I think the hours are altogether too long.

27699. What would you suggest as the proper hours that they should work?

I would suggest that the hours should be shortened to eight hours a day, and I would suggest that that should be a definite day. What I mean by that is this: At the present moment, I understand, that according to the Factory Act, they can be employed in any 12 hours between six in the morning and nine at night. I would suggest that the hours be made definite, and that the latest time at night that they should be allowed to be employed should be seven o'clock, not later than seven; and with regard to the Saturdays, I think that the time for leaving off on Saturdays should be made definite for four o'clock too; that would entirely prohibit their working after four o'clock on Saturday. What I mean by that is this: At the present time it is well known in Liverpool that on Monday, and sometimes on Tuesday, unless things are very, very busy, the master sweater will not employ his hands, for the simple reason that he has not collected sufficient trade to fully employ them, and as they are generally employed by the day, he will not employ them until he has got together sufficient work to fully start them. So that under the present system of allowing them to work so many hours during the 24 hours, the hours being so irregular under the present system, he is enabled to keep his hands idle the first day or two of the week, and rush them at the end of the week; and that very often means working after four o'clock on Saturday, and it likewise means that the great bulk of the work is done the last three days of the week; whereas if it were properly distributed, and the hours were shortened, that would compel the sweater to get his work, and the employer to give out his work, in proper time, so that it could be made in proper hours. The work would be better distributed, the workpeople would make it under greater comfort, and altogether, I believe, that the work would be better done; and, I believe, it could be done under an eight or nine hours'

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system if the system was in some way altered from the present, if it were made more definite, the hours shortened and the day shortened.

27700. What you suggest is, as I understand, that women and children and young persons should not be allowed to work more than eight hours a day ; eight hours during the 24 ?

Eight hours during the 24.

27701. And that the time of leaving off work should be fixed ?

That it should be fixed at a much earlier hour than it is at present, at night.

27702. Would you limit the hours of male labour in any way ?

Yes. I would suggest that in all places where men and women work together, they should be all brought under the Factory Act, both males and females ; I would suggest that they should all be included in the Factory Act.

27703. Then in places where men and women work together you would limit the hours of male labour to eight hours ?

Yes.

27704. Where men work alone, where there are no women, would you limit the hours they work ?

Personally I would limit them, too ; but, of course, I am not authorised to state that for the branch.

27705. Your own opinion is that male labour ought to be limited ?

Yes.

27706. What to ; to eight hours also ?

I think 10 hours would be quite long enough. Personally, I am in favour of an eight hours' day all round ; I think it is quite long enough to work.

27707. Then, as I understand you, you do not complain that the Factory Act is broken, and that the workers work longer than they are allowed by the Factory Act, but you think that the Factory Act allows too long hours of work ?

I think the Factory Act allows too great latitude.

27708. Do you think that the Factory Act is, as a rule, observed in the shops ?

Yes, I think it is. I did find some few places when I went round with the "Lancet" special commissioner last April, which had not been registered at all under the Factory Act up to that time, but I believe they have been since ; but some of them were in a very bad state.

27709. We are talking now of the hours of work ; what I asked you was whether, in your opinion, the provisions of the Factory Act as regards the hours of work are generally observed ?

I think so.

27710. Now as to wages, can you give the Committee any information as to wages. You said that there were 850 men working on the premises of large shops, what you call regular shops. I presume those 850 men are paid the regular log prices ?

Yes, the majority of them are paid to the time log, which was agreed between our Association and the employers in May 1882.

27711. That, I presume, you consider satisfactory ?

That is satisfactory.

27712. Now as to the wages that are paid to the outworkers, the people working in sweaters' shops, are they generally paid by the piece or by time ?

The sweater himself is paid by the piece. The prices paid for the various garments differ in accordance with the character of the firm and the class of work done. I found it very difficult to ascertain the prices paid to the workers,
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and still more to form anything like an estimate of the profit derived by the sweaters. The following figures will give some idea of the wages which in many cases are earned, especially by the women. The figures I am about to give refer to the sweaters in the first place.

27713. The prices they get?

The prices paid to them, according to what I was informed by the workers themselves.

27714. How would the workers know the price the sweater had been paid?

The people who informed me had been taking these garments out themselves; but when they told me, they were working for sweaters, but they had made the garments direct from the firm. For instance, I was informed that and Company, who is probably the largest wholesale clothier in Liverpool, paid as low as 1 s. 1 d. for coats.

27715. I do not know that you need mention particular firms unless you have any special object in doing so?

No, I have no bias at all; I simply wish to give you the facts. The figures range from 1 s. 1 d. for coats, to as high as 14 s. and 16 s. for the best class work, the best bespoke work; 1 s. 1 d. for cheap coats, to 14 s. or 16 s. for best class work.

27716. The 1 s. 1 d. coats, I presume, would be ready-made?

Cheap wholesale clothing, export trade, I presume it would be principally. From 9 d. to about 4 s. 6 d. for trousers, and from 6 d. to 4 s. 6 d. for vests. The lowest figures refer to the cheap trade, and the highest to the best bespoke trade. Between these figures there are, of course, all kinds of prices according to the character and class of trade. These are the prices paid to the sweaters. In the cheap trades, I think, they would require to get through an enormous quantity of work to make any thing like a large profit on those prices; but in the better class trades there would be a large profit, amounting, if the information that I have received is correct, to something like 40 or 50 per cent. in some cases, as I have already told your Lordships.

27717. Do you mean by that, that where a man gets from 14 s. to 16 s. for a coat he would be paying for it something about half?

No, it is difficult to tell what they make.

27718. I think you said that, if the information you received was correct, they would be making a profit of 40 and 50 per cent.?

That is in some cases where they pay by the piece; but the general system of the town is to pay days' wages. But some little time ago, for instance, I was informed that a woman made nine pairs of trousers for 13 s. 6 d. That was a good week's work, and she worked very hard. These trousers were made for a first-class firm, and I am quite certain that the prices paid to the sweater would enable him to realise in that case fully 40 per cent. profit on what he paid her for the trousers; because if the whole price had been paid him, as it should be according to the log, he should have received at least 5 s. or 5 s. 6 d. for those trousers; but I do not expect he did receive that, because I may inform your Lordships that the system in Liverpool is different in nearly every case; in fact, I may say, in all cases, from the system practised in the West End of London, for instance, where the firm pay in many cases the same price to the sweater for taking the work out as they do to the men for making it on the premises. In Liverpool there is something taken off the garment in the first instance, if I may so express it, by the firm, inasmuch as when they give work out, they do not give (I have never heard it yet stated that they do give) anything like the full log price that they would have to pay in the workshops for making that work. For instance, I have referred to first-class coats, 14 s. or 16 s. Those coats, if paid according to the Liverpool log, according to the agreement that we have with the employers, would be paid considerably more than that; in some cases 4 s. or 5 s. more according to the amount of extra work in them. So that you see, in the first instance, this amount is taken off by the firm from the sweater or the middleman. He, again,

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employs other people, and in these cases he must make a very considerable profit indeed. I heard some time ago that one man was going round to betting clubs and boasting that he could walk about and smoke his cigar and make 4*l.* a week quite easily. And he did not keep a very large place either; he only employed five or six people, but yet he could do this.

27719. Then do I understand you that these sweaters, as you call them, pay their hands by time?

In most cases by the day.

27720. All of them, or only some of them?

For instance. One of the workers who was speaking to me told me (he was a presser) that he had received 7*s.* 6*d.* a day; and I was also informed that men machinists in some cases make 7*s.* 6*d.* per day; women would receive from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*, in some cases 5*s.* per day; and button-hole hands and binders, that is, women, would receive from 2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* a day.

27721. Button-holes are paid by the time too, are they?

Button-holes are sometimes paid by the piece; but generally, like the other parts of the work, they are paid under the day's wage system. The fellers would receive from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day. This, of course, must necessarily be only a general statement, it is so difficult to get at what they really do get paid. You see they do not get a full week's work; as I have already told you the first part of the week is very often frittered away by the system they pursue in getting together a quantity of work before they start them.

27722. Have you any other prices of what the hands get to give us?
The prices I have just given refer to the employés of the sweater.

27723. Have you any more of those prices that you wish to give us?
No, I have no more.

27724. You were saying that though they get so much per day, the sums you have mentioned, they work only, I think you said, about four days a week; they don't work on Mondays and Tuesdays?

In very many cases they do not work on Mondays and Tuesdays except they are very very busy.

27725. Only half a day on Saturday?

As I have already told your Lordships, they are rushed at the end of the week. I have seen men working (but I have never known any place where I have seen women) as late as nine o'clock on Saturday night; only a few weeks ago I saw that when I was going home myself.

27726. Then is the work pretty constant all the year round?

No, it is not. Being a season's trade, I may state that generally there are perhaps four or five months, or it may be six or seven months of very fair trade, busy trade; the remainder of the year is very uncertain. April, May, June, and July could be described as busy months; August and September as slack months, and then the busy season commences again in October, and lasts generally to Christmas; from Christmas up to the end of March, as a rule, things are very quiet, and it is during that season especially that the people who receive such poor wages would suffer considerably, I am sure. I know that we who work in the regular shops suffer then sorely enough; but our condition is very much superior to theirs.

27727. Can you give us any idea at all what the average earnings of these hands throughout the year would be?

No, I have no idea; it would be extremely difficult for me to express even an opinion upon that.

27728. How was your log of prices settled; on the basis that so much work should be done; was your log settled on the basis of piece-work somewhat, or time-work?

We work piece-work.

27729. Altogether?

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27729. Altogether?

Yes; we have a log, as I have already stated, mutually agreed upon by the employers and employed, and each garment starts at so many hours.

27730. That is what I want to get at?

It starts at so many hours, and the extras are in addition, whatever the extras may be.

27731. Are the prices paid by the sweaters based upon the same calculation; each garment so many hours?

No; the sweater gets what we may term a lump price for the garment.

27732. I mean what he pays?

He pays one particular price.

27733. He pays his hands by the time, I understand?

In some cases he pays by the piece; but that is in very few cases.

27734. In the cases where he pays by time, I suppose he calculates that so many garments should be made up in such a time?

Yes.

27735. Does he calculate that on the same basis of time for a garment as your log is based on?

No; in most cases he has no conception of what a log is; in many cases he is not a tailor, and has never worked to a log; he simply knows what he will get from his employer for the work, and that he can afford to pay so much for having it made for him under this system, and can make so much profit.

27736. How much an hour is the log-price calculated upon?

The best class work is paid at 6 *d.* per hour; and then in the second and third class shops, 5½ *d.* and 5 *d.* per hour.

27737. Do you know what the sweaters pay per hour?

I have heard that in some cases they pay 4 *d.* per hour, and in others as low as 2 *d.* per hour. In fact, judging from the prices they pay for making the garments, as a practical man I should say that the average would be nearer 2 *d.* than 4 *d.*

27738. I think you said that fifteen years ago the system of which you have been speaking did not exist?

Only to a very limited extent.

27739. How do you account for its having come into existence?

I account for it, to a very large extent, by the influx of foreigners, principally Jews. At the present moment it would be safe to say that fully two-thirds of the sweaters in Liverpool are foreigners, men, the majority of whom, as I have already stated, are not tailors at all, and have never served one hour in the tailoring trade properly as apprentices. I was told that by a Jew some time ago, and he made a serious complaint to me on that head; that he already was finding the competition of his own people so severe that, being a practical man, he should have to do as they had done in many cases, lower his prices, or else he could not make a living. The competition, even amongst the Jews, is getting so severe that the prices are constantly tending to decrease, and I believe that to-day they are very much lower than they were a few years ago in Liverpool through this competition of foreigners amongst themselves, together with their competition with the natives.

27740. I suppose some of these sweaters are practical men, are they not?

Very few of them, indeed.

27741. Is this foreign immigration increasing?

Yes, it is.

27742. Where do they come from?

Principally from Germany, and Russian Poland, I believe.

27743. In your opinion, do they come generally direct from abroad, or do they come to Liverpool from other towns in England?

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They generally come direct from abroad; as far as I have been able to ascertain, through Hull.

27744. Are there many foreigners employed by the sweaters?

Yes. I have been in some workshops in Liverpool where nearly the whole of the employés were foreigners. I was in one workshop some little while ago where there were four or five Germans working, none of whom could speak a word of English; they could not answer me in English.

27745. Do you mean German Jews?

I could not say exactly whether they were Jews; they had that appearance, but certainly they were Germans.

27746. Do you know whether it is customary for the Jews and Gentiles to work together, or do you generally find all the Christians in one shop and all the Jews in another?

It is customary for them to work together, but where the sweater is a Jew he will get together as many of his own people as he can; but there are great numbers of other people working with them too.

27747. I think you said that there were nine firms in Liverpool that employed no labour on their own premises, but had all their work made up outside?

That is so.

27748. I presume that it is customary for the firms to do a considerable part of the work on their own premises, is it not?

The majority of the firms in Liverpool have a portion; the first-class firms have the greater portion of their work made on their premises?

27749. And with regard to the work that they get done outside, is that all given out to these small shops of what you call sweaters, or is much of it done by out-workers, people working for the firm?

We only found 10 genuine out-workers in Liverpool.

27750. That is, people working in their own homes?

That is, people working in their own homes, but employing members of their own family; we term them out-workers. We have admitted those people as members of our society.

27751. Do you admit people who are working for the middlemen or sweaters in your society?

Yes; we should be quite willing to admit the employés of the middleman, but not the middleman himself; we look upon him in exactly the same light as we would any other employer of labour.

27752. I take it the general custom is for the firms in Liverpool to manufacture some of their clothing on their own premises, and to put out the rest to these middlemen, who get it done for them?

That is the general custom, especially amongst what we call the slop shops, large cheap shops.

27753. In those cases do they cut out the work on their own premises and send it out to the middlemen ready cut?

Yes, in the majority of cases that is so; but in some few cases with regard to trousers, the materials and the measures are given out to the sweater, and he has to complete the order himself; but that only has reference to the very cheapest class of trousers, order trousers too. Messrs. Kimo, for instance, do that, but their better class of trade they cut themselves.

27754. And are there very few of the domestic workshops?

There are several domestic workshops where female vest-makers work; they are distributed all over the town. With regard to vests in Liverpool, nearly all the vests are made outside the employers' workshops. There is at the present moment, so far as I know, only one employer in Liverpool who has the whole of his trade made on his premises. Your Lordships do not want me to mention names; I could mention names if it were necessary, but as I have already

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already said, I have no particular bias in the matter; but there is only one at the present who has the whole of the work made on the premises, including vests. There are others who have all their coats and trousers made on the premises, and no vests; and there are others again who have all their coats and trousers and some vests made on the premises; but at the present moment I do not think there are more than 20 to 25 male vestmakers who would be working in shops in Liverpool; and some years ago there were, I am sure, three times or four times that number of men waistcoat makers making these garments in the regular shops. This branch of the trade has almost wholly gone from the men, and is made out in domestic workshops by women.

27755. Well, is there any objection to that, in your opinion?

We have this objection: that where this is done they get paid very much less than they would be paid for making them inside.

27756. Do you mean that they get paid less than women would be paid if working inside, or that women get less than men would get?

They get much less than men would be paid according to the statement agreed between the employer and us. This is done by employers who agreed with us to pay to the log; since that time they have sent out these garments, garments which could be made pretty easily by women in comparison with coats and trousers; these garments are sent out, and the objection we have to it is that they are paid so cheaply.

27757. You object that the women are paid so much less than the men?

Yes. It is best class order work, and what we object to is the women being paid at a less rate than the men.

27758. Is the work as well done by the women?

No; generally speaking it is not, because the women have not served a regular apprenticeship to it.

27759. Do you mean that these women cannot make waistcoats as well as men can?

No; generally speaking they cannot.

27760. Lord Sandhurst.] You mentioned that one person employed all the hands in his own factory; is that a large workshop?

He employs from 15 to 20 men; he has about 18 men at present.

27761. Chairman.] Since when have these vests been made by women instead of by men?

The vests have been made in some firms by women for very many years, but I may say that within the last 10 years it has very much increased.

27762. Have the articles become cheaper, do you know, to the persons who buy them?

I think not. If a gentleman goes to order a suit of clothes there is nothing said about the waistcoat; the usual price is charged.

27763. Does he pay as much for a suit of clothes now, when the waistcoat is made by women, as he paid before, when the waistcoat was made by men?

Quite the same, as far as we know. Where I work myself there is one vest-maker employed, and I think there are two women employed outside. The man inside gets from 5 s. to 7 s., according to the quantity of work in making his job; the woman outside would get from 3 s. 6d. to 5 s.; she has to do just the same amount of work.

27764. You say that, in your opinion, the employment of cheaper labour has not had the effect of cheapening the goods to the people who buy them?

Certainly not, in the best class trade; it may have done in the inferior trades, but I do not believe that that has been the effect with regard to the best class order trade.

27765. Have you got any idea as to how what you complain of could be remedied, if it is desirable to remedy it. I understand you do not object to women working, but you do object for their working for a less rate of wages than men.

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[Continued.]

The general remedy is to compel employers to find adequate workshop accommodation for their employes.

27766. That would not affect the question of wages?

We think it would.

27767. Will you explain why you think so?

We think that by getting the women together they could be properly organised, and that then the rate of wages could be increased by organisation. At the present time they are distributed all over the town, and no one knows where to find them, except here and there. At present they have no means of communicating one with the other, and there is no means of knowing what they are paid; whereas if they were working in proper workshops they could be organised, and then be in a position to do something for themselves.

27768. You think that all the work ought to be carried on in factories or workshops?

I do; that the employer should be made personally responsible for that place, and that he should be compelled by law to keep a register of his workshops, so that that register could be open to the inspector or any other authorised person at any time to see. And whilst I am on this point, I would also like to say that I should like to see the dual inspectorship abolished. At the present time, I believe, under the Factory Acts, there is only a portion of the shops, only the shops where females and young persons are employed, which are under the inspectorship of the factory inspector, and with which he has to do. I should like to see the whole of the workshops, of whatever description they may be, for the future placed under the inspection of the factory inspector entirely.

27769. Do you mean every place where work is carried on?

Where one or two or more persons are employed, whatever the number may be, it should be registered as a workshop, and open for inspection by the factory inspector.

27770. When you say "persons employed," do you mean places only where labour is hired, or would you include places where only members of the same family work?

I would include every place.

27771. Whether members of the same family only work in the place or not?

In all cases, whether members of the same family only or not. By this means I think that they could be properly visited and inspected, and something like sanitary conditions could be imposed. In September 1887, it occupied eight of our men a full week to find out these places, and that will give your Lordships some idea of the difficulty there is in a city like Liverpool, in one or two men doing that work efficiently.

27772. Then I gather from you that you attribute what you complain of to a considerable extent to the influx of foreign labour?

Yes.

27773. Do you think that is serious, sufficiently serious to make it desirable to take any measures to stop it or check it?

I think it so serious that unless it is checked the skilled labour will be gradually driven from our large cities, and that the skilled workers' places will in very many cases in future be taken by unskilled men who will work under this system, and women especially. The present system tends to place women and young people at the disposal of these people to such an extent that really there is no adequate means of organising them for their own improvement, or for the purpose of uplifting their social condition; and I believe that unless some stringent measures are taken for stopping the influx of pauper immigration, it will be useless for anyone who has the social elevation of the people at heart to do anything in that direction. I feel very strongly upon this point, because I have seen the serious evils arising from this system in Liverpool during the last 10 years especially.

27774. And

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27774. And if the women worked together you think that they could be organised in the same way as men have been organised, and that they would be able then to stand out for a higher rate of pay?

I am sure that would be so.

27775. Earl *Brownlow*.] What do the foreigners do when they first arrive; do they bring any capital with them; these foreign sweaters, I mean, that you have described to us?

No; in most cases they do not; that is what we complain of. For instance, some time ago a paragraph appeared in one of the Liverpool newspapers (I am sorry I have not got it with me), to the effect that about that time, about six months ago, if my memory serves me right, there were 60 foreign paupers in that workhouse, and they really did not know what to do with them.

27776. How do these people proceed to start a business if they have no capital?

They go with one of their own people when they first arrive here, not knowing how to speak the language in many cases; and they are taken in hand often by the Jewish Board of Guardians, or their own countrymen, and they are lodged, and put to some particular branch of the tailoring trade. If the man is a big strong fellow, he is put to be a presser, as that is work that requires some strength; for a few weeks he is put under a skilled presser, and in a few weeks he is able to press sufficiently well to do cheap inferior work. The consequence is that in a few months time he is able to take the place of skilled men, who, as I have already said, may receive 7 s. or 7 s. 6 d. per day, and he will work for 5 s. or 6 s. per day. I was told by one of the workers of a case in point that occurred to himself. He said that he received 9 s. day (he was employed in Birmingham, but I saw him in Liverpool), but out of this 9 s. he had to pay an underpresser, who was a Jew, as I have already stated to your Lordships; and he said that at the end of a few months, this man was so far advanced as to be able to take his place; and because he would not work for less than his usual price, he was discharged, and this other man, whom he had taught to press, was allowed to take his place at less wages; and that I believe is the way the system works. They come to England with no capital, and are taken in hand by their friends, or some public societies, or else the family go to the workhouse for a few weeks whilst the husband is learning some particular branch, and then at the end of a few weeks he is able to do a little, and earn a few shillings, and then the family are brought out of the workhouse; and the system goes on like that.

27777. What are the public societies that take these men in hand?

I refer to the Jewish societies; societies whose special function it is to look after the poor Jews. I have heard that they take them in hand and look after them until they are able to shift for themselves. In the meantime their families may go to the workhouse and be kept at the public expense.

27778. You have spoken more to the employed; I meant with regard to the employers of labour, the sweaters; how do they come to be master sweaters if they begin without any capital at all; they cannot get a workshop without capital?

They commence this way; they got to a machine shop, and they hire a machine at 2 s. 6 d. a week, the usual terms; they commence in a small way, and they gradually work up and employ one man, a woman to do the felling and lighter work, and a machinist; and so they work up from that.

27779. They begin at the bottom?

They begin at the bottom, and work up till gradually they employ 20 or 30 men and women, as the case may be; and they live so cheaply, and altogether their habits of life are so different from ours, that by that system they are able to undersell us altogether.

27779.* Lord *Clinton*.] You object very much to the employment of unskilled labour in your trade?

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[Continued.]

Yes, very much. And the best employers, who are willing to employ skilled labour, have a great difficulty in obtaining skilled labour at the busy time of the year.

27780. The garments made by this unskilled labour have to be made to the satisfaction of the wholesale dealer and of the customers?

They have to be made to satisfaction; but they are not made in anything like the way they ought to be made, or would be made, by skilled labour.

27781. I understand your objection to it from the point of view of a skilled workman; but there is a great demand, is there not, for this cheap clothing?

There is.

27782. It supplies a great demand?

It supplies a great demand.

27783. What becomes of these cheap goods; are they sold in England, or are they sent to the colonies?

Most of the trade is ordered in Liverpool.

27784. And the public will have cheap goods?

The public will have cheap goods.

27785. And if they will have cheap goods, the tradesman must employ cheap labour?

That is so. We do not object to the public obtaining cheap goods, but we say this, that these goods could be produced as cheaply under a different system; under a factory system, for instance. If the employers were compelled to obtain workshops, and the goods were made under a factory system, we believe that they could be made quite as cheaply under that system, with greater comfort to the workers, in shorter hours, and that the profits derived by the middlemen would be then distributed amongst the workers, so that the public would obtain their goods at the same price. We object to the middleman system entirely, for we say that they absorb the whole of the profits that the workers who do the work should get.

27786. I think you said that it is the practice of these sweaters to crowd all their work towards the end of the week, and not give it out on Monday or Tuesday?

That is so, to a large extent.

27787. We have had it in evidence that it is very difficult to get men in your trade to work on Monday, and sometimes even on Tuesday; is that so, in your opinion?

It might have been so some years ago.

27788. We have had it in evidence that now it is very difficult to get them to work on Monday?

I have no doubt you have it in evidence, but the younger generation of journeymen are a very different class. Many of them, to my own knowledge, are total abstainers, life abstainers. And very much indeed depends on the character of the employer with regard to whether these men are drinking or not. There are some workshops, the workshop where I work for instance, where the employer encourages his men in every way, and looks after their comfort in some degree, and where he takes care that they shall be properly supplied with work, equally at the beginning and at the end of the week, and where they are not encouraged in any way to lose time; whereas, under the system that I have been speaking of, the employers, knowing that they can get their work done at the end of the week, do not care to cut it out in proper time at the beginning of the week and put it in hand, and the result of that is general irregularity and looseness amongst the workers. Of course they are demoralised at the beginning of the week, and they are not fit to do the work, even when they get it. But in many cases the tailors now are a very much better and
soberer

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[Continued.]

soberer class of people than they were some years ago ; there is a very great improvement indeed in that respect.

27789. Lord *Monkswell*.] You said, I think, that these men make some 30 or 40 per cent. clear profit ?

Yes.

27790. But you also say that it does not require much capital to set up as a sweater, and that sweaters are not generally practical men ; I suppose there must be competition in the sweating business as in other businesses ?

That is so ; there is competition.

27791. Then I cannot understand how the sweater can make so large a profit as you say ; I think you must exaggerate the amount of profit that they make ?

I do not think I have exaggerated ; I have tried not to do so ; I have tried to do rather the reverse ; I have tried to be extremely moderate.

27792. Then you say that the skilled workers are driven out by sweaters ; but you also say (and it is rather difficult to reconcile the two statements) that it is difficult to obtain skilled labour. If it is difficult to obtain skilled labour, I should have thought that skilled labour could have made its own terms ?

That statement of mine about the difficulty of obtaining skilled labour refers to the best-class trades only.

27793. What you mean is, not that the most skilled workers are driven out by sweaters, but only that what you might call ordinary skilled workers are driven out by the sweating system ; more or less common workers ?

What I term skilled workers are men who have served an apprenticeship. Of course there are degrees of skill, even amongst them. The most highly skilled, no doubt, as you say, can always obtain something like fair employment ; but there is a large class, even fairly skilled workers, who have been driven away from Liverpool by this system. and their places have been taken, as I have already shown you, by the unskilled and by foreign persons.

27794. We have had evidence before us to the effect that foreigners very soon learn what the current rate of wages is, and that when they get fairly well skilled in their work they refuse to work for less than the current rate ?

I believe that is true at the present time of the year, when the work is busy. Being a season trade and dependent on the weather, the trade is rushed, so to speak, into a few months of the year ; in the summer months it is rushed, and it is then rather difficult to obtain workers ; there is no doubt about that. We think that if a better system could be devised, and if the public knew that the workers worked for more definite hours, and that the work had to be done under better hours and better regulations, they would order clothes in a better manner.

27795. In what proportion are the sweaters' workmen foreigners ?

I could not say ; but it is a great proportion.

27796. Would they be half ?

No, they would not be half.

27797. Then more than half are native workers, who compete with the others ?

The majority of the native workers under the sweaters are women and young persons.

27798. Would the majority of the men be foreigners ?

No.

27799. Then the majority even of the men who work under the sweaters are born in England ?

Yes ; but I believe the majority of the master sweaters are foreigners ; but some are English.

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[Continued.]

27800. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You mentioned that there was a large increase in the number of domestic workshops; are these domestic workshops places in which only people work who are members of the same family, or do they employ labour?

They employ no labour except that of members of their own family.

27801. When you say that you would remedy the evil by compelling the factory owners to employ all labour in their own factories, you would prohibit this kind of work in domestic workshops?

I would. I think it tends to increase the spread of infection. As these people are isolated, and not under the supervision of the factory inspector, there is no necessity for him to go near them; in fact, he does not go near them, because he has no record of them; hence, if small-pox or any other epidemic arose in their family, it would probably be spread by means of the garments, and we should be puzzled to know how it started.

27802. Your recommendation is, not so much that these domestic workshops should be abolished, as that they should be subject to factory inspection?

I would recommend, in preference to that, that they should be abolished, and that the people should be employed on the employers' own premises, under a different system. I think it demoralises a man's home, for work to be carried on in that home; I think it interferes with the wife's household duties, and altogether tends to demoralise the home and decrease the husband's comfort. In many cases I believe that this drives men to the public-house. Thus you see a system of evil is started which in many cases could be traced to the system of working at home.

27803. Do not you think that it would be rather objected to by the workers, if a wife was prohibited from earning anything in her leisure hours?

No doubt in some cases objection would be made; but it would be all the better, in some cases, if the husband was compelled to be all the more industrious. We know that some of these women have to work hard to support dissolute husbands.

27804. I do not know that I quite understand what you said about the work coming nearly all at one time, and this state of things being prevented by regulations as to the hours. Do you mean that if the regulations made prevented people from working long hours, the public, under those conditions, could not get their clothes made with the rapidity they do now, and so would be obliged to order them at longer notice; is that what you meant, or did you mean that the only remedy that could be expected is by getting the public to take a more enlightened view of the matter?

I believe the effect would be this, that instead of the public leaving all their orders to the month of April or May, in many cases they would order them in March; hence the work would be better distributed, and instead of the workers being comparatively idle almost all through March, they would be pretty fully employed. I believe it would have that effect. People must have clothes, and I believe they would order them in reasonable time to get them.

27805. Because they could not get them otherwise, you mean, if the hours were regulated?

Yes; and not only that; I believe the effect would be to give a larger number of people employment; and that is what we think is increasingly necessary, to provide employment for so many idle people.

27806. *Chairman*.] Are there any learners employed in your trade?

Do you mean apprentices?

27807. Apprentices?

There are very few apprentices in the regular shops in Liverpool, very few indeed. On account of the system that has prevailed in the past few years, I believe it has not been worth men's while to put their sons to the trade as apprentices.

27808. Do

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27808. Do the sweaters employ them?

Yes; in many cases these women who make the vests at home employ young girls, and they are apprenticed for a term of about two years; at the end of the two years they, in their turn, commence to work for themselves, and they employ young girls.

27809. When you say "apprenticed," are they regularly indentured, or is it merely an agreement?

It is merely an agreement, I believe; but this tends to the spread of the system, you see.

27810. With regard to those firms that do their work on their own premises, or a large portion of it, do their foremen ever act as middlemen?

I have never heard of an instance.

27811. Middlemen are not employed on their premises?

Yes; there are some shops in Liverpool who do employ what we call sweaters on the premises.

27812. Just explain that?

I could give the names, but your Lordship has directed me not to mention names. There are several of these firms who employ Jews on the premises. The Jew has a room set apart by the firm, and he contracts to make the work at so much per garment, just the same as if he took it from the premises; and then he employs his own hands, just exactly in the same way as if he took it away from the premises altogether.

27813. Well, is that common?

It is becoming more common. At the present time there are six or seven firms doing that.

27814. Do you consider that that is open to just the same objections as apply in the other case?

Precisely so; because we hold that the profits derived by these middle men should go to the workers. The public would lose nothing by that, but the workers would be engaged direct by the firm, and the profits that the middleman gets would go direct to the workers. I may say that in some of the firms I have mentioned three systems are carried on; men are employed in the regular way, and paid something like a fair rate of wage for their work; these are skilled men, men who have served their time. Then there is another room set apart for women and young girls, who are supervised by one or two men.

27815. What do you mean by "supervised"?

There is a man who fits up the garment, and puts it in hand, and generally directs how to make it.

27816. He does not act as a middleman?

No. he is employed by the firm, and there is a man to press. In the third case there is a room set apart for the middleman, who employs his own labour and pays his own rate of wages. In one case I was in the workshop some weeks ago, and one of the workers told me that this man was capable of making 120 coats a week. There were five men and 12 women employed at this time by this man. This is a large clothier in London-road. The forewoman, or rather the principal machinist in the Jews' room, strange to say, is employed direct by the firm at 27 s. a week; the others receive from the Jew from 6 s. to 18 s. per week; and in the same place there is an under-presser, a lad; he was pointed out to me, and they told me he was half starved, and I was not surprised to hear it, when they told me that he was employed about two days a week and got 2 s. a day. At any rate, these five men and 12 women together, with the under-presser, were capable of turning out 120 coats a week. These coats range from 3 s. 6 d. to 6 s. 6 d. per garment; the class of trade is cheap order trade, working men's trade.

27817. What do you want to deduce from that; that the price the middleman would have received would have enabled him to pay higher wages?

(11.)

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[Continued.]

I would suggest that that system should be made entirely illegal; that the whole of the workers on the premises should be employed directly by the firm, and that no one should be allowed to come between the employers and the workpeople.

27818. You have said two or three times that employers should be obliged to employ all their hands on the premises; how would you bring that about?

In Liverpool it would require very little alteration, because the majority of the employers have room for a great many more hands on their premises. There are many workshops in Liverpool which are only half full, and the bulk of the work is done outside.

27819. What I understand you to desire is, that all the work should be done on the premises of the first employer?

Yes.

27820. I want to know how that could be brought about?

I would suggest that in cases where he has not sufficient room on his own premises he should be compelled to provide a workshop, such workshop to be under the factory inspector, and that he should not be allowed to send his trade hither and thither all round the world, nobody knows where, and at the same time not being liable to inspection.

27821. I understand you think that in some way or other it ought to be made illegal for a man to get work made off his own premises?

Yes; I think he should be compelled to take that responsibility upon himself, and I think it is becoming increasingly desirable from the fact that these people, the sweaters or middlemen, are beginning seriously to compete with those employers who are inclined to pay a fair rate of wages, to get the bulk of their work made on their premises and pay a fair price for things. They have to suffer from the competition of these cheap men who under the present system get the rent of the workroom paid for by the worker, and so save themselves the rent of a workshop, whilst they pocket the difference.

27822. You spoke just now of the "difference" in the habits of these foreign immigrants; what do you mean by that; do you mean that they are more industrious or more frugal than the native workers?

I do not think they are any more industrious. With regard to their being more frugal, that is a matter of opinion. I believe they live at a very much cheaper rate than we can; I believe they are able to do it from their previous customs, the customs of their own country; a very much lower rate than we have been accustomed to.

27823. I think you said that, in your opinion, journeymen tailors were steadier men in this generation than the last generation?

I am sure it is so.

27824. And do I understand you rightly also, that you consider that it is the fact that work is not much given out on Mondays and Tuesdays that tends to make the men drink and so on, on those days?

Yes, that is so.

27825. It is not, in your opinion, the case that the reason the work is not given out is because the men are not ready to work on Monday; you think that the men are inclined to drink on Monday, or are not disposed to work on Monday, because they cannot get work to do?

I understand your Lordship's question has reference to the sweaters' people.

27826. We were talking of journeymen tailors. I think it has been mentioned in evidence before us that it is very difficult to get men to work on Mondays and Tuesdays; that their habits are such that they are not ready for work on those days?

I can quite understand that; you have been told this, I understand.

27827. And

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[*Continued*]

27827. And I gather from you that that is due to the fact that the work is not ready for them ?

Yes. With reference to the sweaters' people I could not speak so positively, except that I do know that it is the custom to keep them out of the workshop till there is a sufficient quantity to start them all.

27828. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] You mentioned that there was considerable improvement, especially as regards the younger men, with regard to what the Chairman has been referring to ; I mean the unpreparedness for the work at the beginning of the week, so far as temperance is concerned ?

That is so.

27829. As far as you have observed, is there an increasing desire among employers to encourage the men in the way you mentioned that your own employer was in the habit of doing ?

It is a very difficult question to answer ; some of the employers do encourage them, whilst others do not.

27830. Then as to the supposed unpreparedness of the men to work at the beginning of the week, is it not the case that complaints are made that there is a difficulty after a holiday, such as Easter Monday or Whit-Monday, in getting men to come back to their work, even when the work is waiting for them ?

That is so, in some cases ; but that applies generally to the men who will drink at any time, whether it is Bank Holiday or not ; but those are very few cases indeed.

27831. Am I to understand that you think that in many cases the want of work on the earlier days of the week has led men to form habits which would not have been formed if the work had been ready early in the week ?

I believe that that lies at the foundation of the evil.

27832. At the same time you say that the younger generation are recognising the advantages of temperance ?

Yes, and I think that I may also state that the employers are beginning to recognise the advisability of helping the workers in that direction ; at any rate that can be said with regard to some of them in Liverpool.

27833. Lord *Sandhurst*.] Then you consider that the sympathy between the workers and the employers is increasing ?

Yes, I think so. I may say, and I am very pleased to say, in regard to that point, that since 1882, when I had the honour to be the secretary of the branch and took an active part in negotiating the present log, we have been occasionally in negotiation with the employers ; we have had arbitration meetings to settle our disputes and so on ; and even at the present time negotiations are pending between them and us, and that so far since that date we have been very friendly and got on very well, and altogether I think there is a stronger bond of sympathy between us at present ; and speaking for the first-class employers at any rate, I believe they are fully as anxious as we are that something really should be done to check this undue and unfair competition which exists between them and the lower slop shops, the inferior class of trade, caused by the middle-man system. I believe they are just as anxious as we are, because they are suffering as well as we are, and it is an undoubted fact that there is not the same quantity of good work in the shops in Liverpool that there was some few years ago ; it has been gradually taken from the skilled hands and made by the unskilled hands under the sweating system. That is undoubtedly so, and therefore I believe the employers would be equally as glad as ourselves if something could be done, by the advice of your Lordships, to remedy that state of things. It would be as much to their interest as to ours that it should be done.

27834. *Chairman*.] How do these skilled hands learn their trade ?

They are apprenticed.

27835. Regularly apprenticed ?

Yes ; but there are very few apprentices working at the present time, from

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[Continued.]

the fact that it is not worth a man's while to put his son into the tailoring trade, because he is not sure of his making a good living by it.

27836. You think the unskilled labour is gradually destroying the supply of skilled labour?

I am certain that is so. Would your Lordship like me to say anything as to suggestions? I think I have gone over most of my ground.

27837. Have you any suggestions which you would like to make?

I have made some of them in the course of my evidence already.

27838. You think, as I gather from you, that all the work ought to be done on the premises of the firm; you think that all places where work is carried on should be registered; and you think that in all places where young people and women are employed eight hours should be the limit of a day's work, and you have given us as your own private opinion, but not as the opinion of your society, that male labour ought to be limited to eight hours also?

Yes.

27839. Is there anything else you wish to mention?

I have also mentioned a suggestion with reference to the prohibition of overtime on Saturdays. I mentioned that I had heard of women being employed long after four o'clock on Saturdays; and I would suggest that that be made illegal. That would compel the trade to be done at the earlier part of the week; it would have that effect.

27840. On that point, let me ask you this question: Do you think that there is any danger of interfering seriously with a season trade, like your trade, if you made restrictions of that sort?

I think not; I think it would tend to give more employment, and equalise it better over the year.

27841. But can you equalise the employment over the year with a season trade; is it not a necessary part of such a trade that you must have some rushes of work?

That is the custom at present; but I think it could gradually be altered if a better system was devised.

27842. But is it not a fact that if you have an appearance of warm weather, summer time, coming, there will be a sudden demand for certain classes of goods?

My experience is that there is not that demand now for light summer goods, not the great demand that there used to be. I think the majority of gentlemen are now wearing much the same clothes all the year round, with the exception that the material is heavier for the winter than it is for the summer. Some years ago light trousers and white waistcoats were the fashion, and so on, but that has gone out to a great extent.

27843. At any rate, you think the necessities of the trade are not such as would prevent the work being more equalised?

I think not; I think if the public knew that that was to be done they would give the orders earlier than they do; and not only that, but I believe that the foremen of the employers would be compelled to cut out their work quicker than they do, and get it in hand.

27844. Have you any other suggestions?

I would also suggest that there should be a large number of practical sub-inspectors appointed. I have suggested already the registration of all these places, and I would suggest that with the view of the registration being effectively carried out there should be a large number of sub-inspectors appointed, men who knew the places, practical workmen, who knew something about their system.

27845. Do you mean practical workmen or practical tailors?

Practical tailors, I would suggest, who knew something about the work, and knew

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[Continued.]

knew where to find these places, and how the work should be carried on, and what was right, and so on. I think that a large number of these men are necessary.

27846. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You would have an inspector especially for the tailoring trade?

I think it should apply to all trades.

27847. You would say that the inspector should have a special qualification as a tailor?

Yes, in regard to the tailoring trade.

27848. Then you would have, as I understand, special inspectors for special trades.

In a large city like Liverpool, or like London, there should be special inspectors for special trades. I do not think that would be necessary in smaller places; but in large centres, where there is sufficient work in each trade for one or two men to do, I think it would be advisable.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

SARAH BLOCK, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

27849. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?
Tailoress.

27850. What class of work do you make?
Felling.

27851. Do you work on the premises of one of these large firms, or do you work for one of these people that have been described as sweaters?
I work for Mr. —

27852. How many women work in the same place?
About 12, I think.

27853. Any men?
Yes.

27854. How are you paid, by the piece or by the time, so much a day?
Paid by the day.

27855. Can you tell the Committee how much you are earning now?
I earn 3 s. a day.

27856. How long have you been earning that?
Four years.

27857. Were you taken on there as a learner to start with?
No.

17858. Did you ever work as a learner anywhere?
No.

27859. When you first went to work, did you earn 3 s.?
No; I first had 2 s.

27860. Have you anything to say about the condition of the shop; is it clean, and so on?
It is clean.

27861. What is your day's work; how many hours a day do you work?
From eight in the morning till eight in the evening.

27862. With an hour and a-half for meals?
From one to two o'clock for dinner and half-an-hour at tea.

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SARAH BLOCK.

[Continued.]

27863. And on Saturdays ?

We do not work on Saturdays.

27864. Were you born in this country ?

No.

27865. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] In Germany ?

Yes.

27866. *Chairman*.] Did you work at the same trade in Germany ?

Yes.

27867. You knew your trade when you came to England ?

Yes.

27868. Do they work overtime often in your shop ?

No.

27869. Never ?

No.

27870. Do they work on Mondays ?

They work a short day, till four o'clock.

27871. A short day on Tuesday ?

No.

27872. A full day on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday ?

Yes, from eight in the morning till eight in the evening.

27873. Not at all on Saturday ?

Not at all on Saturday.

27874. And not at all on Sunday ?

Half a-day, in the morning.

27875. Are they all Jews, or Jews and Christians mixed ?

Jews and Christians.

27876. How do they manage about the Christians on Sunday ?

They do not work on the Sunday.

27877. What are you paid for the half-day, how much wages do you get for the half-day ?

It is 1 s. 6 d.

27878. Do you work those hours all the year round ?

Yes.

27879. Is there not a slack time ?

Yes, there is a slack time.

27880. How many days a week do you work in the slack time ?

Three days.

27881. Three full days ?

Yes.

27882. Lord *Clinton*]. Have you anything to complain of ?

No.

27883. You get sufficient wages ?

Yes.

27884. And do not work too long ?

No.

27885. Lord *Monkswell*]. How much did you get in Germany, where you came from ?

It is different money ; I cannot say how much.

27886. Do

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SARAH BLOCK.

[Continued.]

27886. Do you reckon that you got more when you came to England than you were getting in Germany?

No; not at first.

27887. What made you take 2s. when you came to England?

Because I did not know much then, but I know more now.

27888. Do you mean that when you left Germany you were getting more than 2s. a day?

I think so. It was German money, but I do not know how much it would be in English money.

27889. What was it in German money?

Our money was the rouble; I do not know what that means in English money.

27890. How much a day did you get?

A rouble a week; five days in the week.

27891. Where?

In Russia.

27892. *Chairman.*] Where were you born?

In Germany.

27893. Lord *Monkswell.*] Do you mean that you only got a rouble a week just before you came to England?

Yes.

27894. Did you work as long hours as in England?

No.

27895. How many hours did you work in Russia for a rouble a week?

I cannot say exactly.

27896. *Chairman.*] Can you earn a better living here than you could in Russia?

Yes.

27897. Are you married?

No.

27898. Is there anything you would like to say to the Committee?

I have nothing to say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

ANNIE DAVIES, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

27899. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you working at?

Vest making.

27900. Do you work in a shop?

Yes; I work for some one in a shop.

27901. How many people work in the same place with you?

Nine hands.

27902. All women and girls?

Yes.

27903. No men at all?

No.

27904. What do you do?

I am an improver.

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ANNIE DAVIES.

[*Continued.*]

27905. Are you paid by the piece or by the day ?
By the week.

27906. How much a week ?
Six shillings and sixpence a week.

27907. And do you know how many hours a week you work for that ?
I work from eight to eight generally, and on Saturday from eight to four.

27908. On Mondays from eight to eight ?
Yes.

27909. And Tuesdays ?
Yes.

27910. And every day except Saturdays ?
Yes.

27911. And have an hour and a-half for your meals ?
Yes.

27912. How long have you been earning that amount ?
Not long.

27913. How long have you been working at all at making vests ?
About two years.

27914. What did you get when you first began ?
When I was only an apprentice I got 1 s. a week.

27915. For how long ?
For about three months, I think.

27916. And then what did you get, 2 s. ?
Yes. That was not at the same place.

27917. For how long would that be ?
For about the same, three months.

27918. And so you gradually got on ?
Yes.

27919. Do you expect to get another rise some day ?
I expect so, if I get on with it ?

27920. How old are you ?
Twenty.

27921. You have only been working about two years ?
About that time.

27922. You expect that you can get on a bit to be able to earn more.
Yes.

27923. What do you expect you will be able to rise to ?
I do not know.

27924. Do all work in one room ?
No, we have two workrooms.

27925. Have you far to go from where you live ?
About 25 minutes' walk.

27926. And you are always employed for the full time ?
Yes ; we are not very busy during the winter.

27927. Sometimes you are not very busy ?
No.

27928. And what happens then ?
I get paid for my time.

27929. You

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ANNIE DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27929. You do not work so much?

No.

27930. Do you work fewer days, or do you work fewer hours in each day?
Fewer days.

27931. Do you ever go to the place where you work and find there is no work for you, and have to wait there some time?

Yes.

27932. Then would you be paid for the time you are waiting or only for the time you are working?

I do not get quite so much then.

27933. Is the place clean and comfortable?

Quite clean.

27934. Lord *Clinton*.] Is your food supplied to you besides your wages?

No.

27935. You have to find your own dinner?

Yes.

27936. And tea?

Yes.

27937. You think you may get higher wages some day?

Yes; if I get on I expect to get more.

27938. You are an improver now?

Yes.

27939. When you are promoted what work will you have then?

I do not know.

27940. You do not know what comes next to an improver?

No.

27941. *Chairman*.] What do you do as an improver?

I bind and tack vests.

27942. If you are only doing that kind of work how will you learn any other kind of work?

When I get on I shall learn other work.

27943. Lord *Clinton*.] Have you to find the thread?

No.

27944. Everything is found for you?

Yes.

27945. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you ever work the machine?

Yes; very seldom.

27946. I suppose you do not consider that you are a good hand at that?

No.

27947. When you do get a good hand at it, you will expect to get a great deal more, I suppose?

I expect so.

27948. You do not have much practice at it now?

No.

27949. *Chairman*.] What were you doing before you went to this?

I was in service.

27950. And which do you like best; the service or this?

I like the sewing best.

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ANNIE DAVIES.

[Continued.]

27951. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] Is that because you are more independent than when you were in service?

I have a little more time to myself for one thing, and I expect to earn more money in time.

27952. *Chairman*.] Have you any idea how much a week you can earn, taking it all the year round?

No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. HYMAN BALSAM, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

27953. *Chairman*.] ARE you a tailor?

Yes.

27954. How long have you worked at the trade?

About 27 years.

27955. In Liverpool all the time?

In Liverpool, London, Leeds, and Leicester.

27956. Are you native born in England?

No.

27957. What country do you come from?

Poland.

27958. Did you work in the same trade there?

I learned there ; I just came away as an improver.

27959. And you are working now as a practical tailor yourself?

Yes.

27960. What class of work do you do?

I do a better class of ready-made work?

27961. Do you take that work from other firms?

I work for one particular firm, and occasionally for some of the shops in the town ; if they are in difficulties they send a job, at least what we call a job, a coat to make.

27962. Do you make only coats?

Only coats ; our system is to make only one article. Those that make coats do not make waistcoats ; those that make waistcoats make no other things.

27963. And you make coats?

Yes.

27964. And you are paid so much a coat?

Yes. Then I employ a good number of hands.

27965. You are supplied with the materials?

Yes ; I get supplied with everything barring the sewings.

27966. Is it cut for you?

Everything is cut for me.

27967. How many hands do you employ?

I employ now about 18 men and women.

27968. How many men and how many women?

Fourteen women and four men ; that is, when they are all in.

27969. And what do you do yourself?

I have to fit up as we call it, get it ready for the people to do the handwork and the machine work, and superintend, and see that this man does this right and that one that ; it takes me all day long to see that all the work is done in a practical way.

27970. What

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Mr. BALSAM.

[Continued.]

27970. What do your men do, the four men that you employ?

Two are pressers; one presses up the garment, and one is just assisting the one that is pressing up.

27971. And what are the others doing?

Of the others, one is a tailor, and one principally goes to the shop, goes messages, and brings the work and carries the work back.

27972. How do you pay these men, by time?

By the day.

27973. What do you pay your pressers?

The presser gets 7 s. 6 d. a day. I have got an Englishman who has been working for me for about eight years, and he gets 7 s. 6 d. a day.

27974. And does he pay the under presser?

No, I have to pay him.

27975. What do you pay him?

He gets a guinea a week, 3 s. 6 d. a day.

27976. And the other two men?

The other two men are practical tailors; they have to do the practical tailoring part; they have to get ready the coat in such a way that the young ladies can do it. They have to be prepared by a man. A girl in the tailoring cannot make a coat quite herself; it must be prepared in a practical way by a man; then it gives the girl a chance to do her part of the work.

27977. What do you pay to these two practical tailors?

There are various prices. I have had men in my time that I have paid 2 l. 10 s. and 2 l. 15 s. Now it happens I have got a man I only pay 2 l.; he is not exactly as clever a man as he ought to be.

27978. Both of these men are earning 2 l.?

Yes; 2 l. is quite common work, but if a man is quick, if he is quicker at his work, he can earn more.

27979. How do you calculate the wages you pay them; do you calculate that they ought to be able to do a certain amount of work in a certain number of hours?

Some men are fortunate enough to be more handy at their work, and some of them are unfortunate enough to be rather slow.

27980. What I want to know is, how you calculate the weekly wage?

I have always to reckon up how many coats it is possible to make with a certain number of people, and then I know what wages I can afford to give.

27981. So much an hour?

An hour is 6 d. if they make any overtime; but as it happens in my place there is never any overtime; but if there is any pressure, a funeral, or anything of that sort, I give 6 d. an hour to women and 8 d. to men.

27982. Sixpence an hour is the basis you calculate on?

Yes.

27983. Then you say that the coat shall be made in so many hours?

They do not get a certain task. If they get done quicker, all the better; but if they do not, we cannot hurry them; if we hurry them, they leave.

27984. You said if a man was very quick he could earn more than if he was not?

Yes.

27985. How do you account for that, if you pay him so much a week?

If he makes his work quicker I can afford to pay him more.

27986. Then you calculate that so much work ought to be done in so many hours?

Yes; some of them can prepare three coats in an hour for the girls, and some of them cannot prepare two.

(11.)

B B 3

27987. Sixpence

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Mr. BALSAM.

[Continued.]

27987. Sixpence an hour, you say, is what you pay, not 5 *d.*?

No; I have had girls working for me for 10 or 11 years, and they always get 6 *d.* an hour.

27988. Is 6 *d.* an hour a general rate?

That is my rule.

27989. I mean for other people?

It depends upon what class of work it is; at my work I can afford to give that.

27990. Then these 14 women and girls, are they paid by the week also?

They are paid by the day.

27991. And how much do you pay them?

The machinist (I have got a machinist who has been working for eight years for me) gets 6 *s.* a day; then button-holers and those who bind round the coats get 4 *s.* a day.

27992. Have you any working for less than that?

Yes, the one that does the least valuable workmanship in a coat gets the least.

27993. What would be the lowest that you pay?

The lowest that I pay is 3 *s.* a day.

27994. Nobody earning less than 3 *s.* a day?

I have got one who is learning; she has been only about six or seven weeks in the trade; her father asked me to teach her, and that I should just allow her what I think proper; so I give her what I think I can afford.

27995. And, with that one exception, is the lowest wage you pay 3 *s.* a day?

Yes.

27996. And you have only one learner?

Only one learner.

27997. And do you ever have any more than one?

No; as a rule I have not got one even; this is a particular friend of mine that asked me to take her.

27998. Your business, you said, I think, was the better class of ready-made?

The better class of ready-made.

27999. Your business, I suppose, is pretty regular?

It is almost regular. According as the business is in the shops I am kept on, and that is the way I keep my people on.

28000. Do you employ the same number all the year round?

Yes.

28001. And how many hours a day do you work in busy times?

Busy time or slack time in my place, they do not work more than from eight to eight, except only on very special occasions. I might have them come down an hour earlier.

28002. Your regular hours are from eight to eight?

Yes.

28003. And how many days a week?

If I am busy they work from Monday to Saturday, and make a full week.

28004. Saturday is a short day always, I suppose?

I have Monday a short day.

28005. Do you work at all on Mondays in the slack time?

If there is any work at all we are working at it.

28006. That is not what I asked you; I asked you whether you worked Mondays?

Yes.

28007. All

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Mr. BALSAM.

[*Continued.*]

28007. All the year round ?

Not all the year round ; in the slack time we have not got any work on Monday.

28008. That is what I asked you ?

In the slack time we have not ; but if there is work from Saturday we start on Monday ; but sometimes there is no work on Monday.

28009. Does it ever happen that you have no work on Monday or Tuesday ? Tuesday, as a rule, we do work.

28010. Sometimes you do not ?

That is very rare.

28011. What do you call your slack season ?

From January till about the beginning of March, or the middle of March at the most.

28012. Do you suppose that you work four full days a week on the average all the year round ?

On an average my hands make more than four days a week.

28013. Have you any foreman under you ?

The one that I pay is not exactly the one that I usually keep ; but in the busy time I have to take such a one as there is.

28014. Are all your people employed in one room ?

Yes.

28015. Is it in your own house ?

No ; I keep a special workroom. When we take a place we have to give notice to the inspector, and he comes and inspects, and tells us how many people we are allowed to keep in that place.

28016. Have you ever been inspected ?

Yes. I did not start to work until I had been inspected.

28017. How long have you had your present workshop ?

It will be about 14 months.

28018. Has any complaint ever been made by the sanitary inspector or factory inspector ?

No. The inspector comes up very often, and gives a look to see that there are not more people than there were last time.

28019. I suppose some of your hands would live some distance, would they not ?

Some of them ; there might be two or three who would live at a distance.

28020. And till they get to your shop I presume they do not know whether there is any work to do or not ?

They always know the day previous. If I have no work for them the next morning as a rule I keep a man specially to send messages and that kind of thing, and send word to them to save them the trouble of coming.

28021. Do you mean to say that you would let them all know on Saturday whether there would, or whether there would not, be work for them to do on Monday.

Yes ; on Saturday, when I pay the wages, I know.

28022. You keep a special messenger to go round to these 14 women and the four men, and tell them whether they will be wanted or not ?

Yes.

28023. And you mean to say that it never happens that your hands come to the shop and that there is nothing for them to do ?

I might be disappointed myself ; I might go to the shop and the foreman who works over me tells me that there will be work at about four o'clock or five o'clock ; then if any of the people who work for me are about at that time, I tell them that there will be work in the morning. But sometimes in that way

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Mr. BALSAM.

[Continued.]

we are disappointed. I happens that something else has to be done before that work can be given out ; if the cutters who cut the work have something more special to do than the work they have in hand, then, of course, I am disappointed, and the girls that work for me are also disappointed that morning.

28024. If you are disappointed, what happens ; do you pay them the time they are waiting, or not ?

No.

28025. You pay men the time they are working ?

Yes.

28026. And it happens occasionally that they may be there, and there is nothing for them to do ?

Yes, it happens now and then ; it might happen two or three times through the year.

28027. Not more than two or three times in a year ?

No, that does not happen often in my place.

28028. Lord *Clinton*.] Have you ever any difficulty in getting your men to work on Monday ?

Not the men, nor the women either ; the class of women that work in our trade are only to glad to work if there is any at all.

28029. Do you put any of your work out to workers outside to work at home ?

No.

28030. And do any of your workpeople ever take work to do at home ?

No.

28031. *Chairman*.] You do not allow them to take work home ?

No.

28032. Never ?

I have not done so.

28033. You have never done so ?

I could not take my oath that I might not once through my time have done so ; but that is not my rule ; I do not do it.

28034. It is not your custom ?

No.

28035. Have you ever worked in Liverpool as a journeymen tailor ?

I have.

28036. Up to what date ?

It will be about 13 years since that I started as an employer.

28037. Since then you have employed others ?

I have worked for firms since then, and I have employed others.

28038. Have you ever worked at any another trade besides that of a tailor ?

No.

28039. Is there anything else that you wish to say ?

I only wish to say as our trade is so much put down by some of the native tailors, of the good class of tailors, that we do not do any harm to them. Those first-class shops would not give any coat to us to make, not if we would offer to make it for nothing. They work up to the log. But many a time those shopkeepers find themselves in great difficulty ; if they have a uniform order, or a funeral order, and if their men are (as they very often are, I am sorry to say) enjoying themselves, occasionally they come to us ; but as a rule those places that pay up to the log so much for a coat at starting, would never give us a job. We only work for the middle-class trade ; because there are various classes in our trade ; there are some wholesale and some retail. Those in the retail trade can afford to pay better than in the wholesale. The wholesale trade have to compete with houses where they employ thousands of hands, such as in Manchester and

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Mr. BALSAM.

[Continued.]

and Leeds, and they cannot afford to give more for labour than they can in Manchester or Leeds. Now again with regard to the number of girls that we employ, a great number, in Liverpool, before we started our system those girls were either at the cigar-making or dressmaking, where they could not earn so much money. In many cases we have married women working for us where the husband has no work for months and months, and the women support their children, in many cases that can be proved; and if it were not for the women working, the children would be almost in the workhouse. We can afford to do the work for the price we get, because we are industrious. When the work is bad, we do not like to spend the time, but we do it; if we cannot make 3 l. a week, we are glad with 2 l. a week. There are three qualities of trade. The shopkeeper pays according to the quality of the suits. Supposing one suit is marked up at 35 s., and then another suit 45 s., and another suit 25 s., we must pay according to the quality of the stuff; that is the way we get paid.

28040. Do you employ Jews and Christians both?

Yes. I only employ two Jews; the rest are all Christians, and they all have been years with me.

28041. Do you ever find any difficulty in getting skilled tailors, practical tailors?

Not from our people. Many a time we will give skilled tailors any time 2 l. or 2 l. 5 s. a week, but they would not come to us; and then we could not depend upon them either.

28042. How do you come to know about the cigar trade; have you anything to do with the tobacco trade?

No, but I have been living in a private house, and the same landlord had a cigar shop, and when he gave it up he asked me would I take it, and I found the rent was not much more than I pay in the private house, so I started.

28043. Then have you a cigar shop?

I attend to this business; I have a cigar shop, but I have a young lady attending to that.

28044. How long have you had a cigar shop?

It would be over two years.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. LEWIS BERNSTEIN, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

28045. *Chairman.*] ARE you in the same class of business as the last witness, Mr. Balsam?

Yes.

28046. Ready-made clothing?

Ready-made clothing.

28047. Have you heard the evidence of the last witness?

Yes.

28048. Do you agree with it generally?

Yes.

28049. Do you work for more than one firm?

Only for one firm.

28050. And as to the wages you pay and the prices you get, can you tell the Committee what you get?

From about 5 s. to lower down; 2 s. is the lowest for coats; I only make coats.

28051. And how do you pay your hands?

By the day.

(11.)

C c

28052. What

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Mr. BERNSTEIN.

[Continued.]

28052. What kind of price?

To the men I pay 7 s., 6 s., 5 s., 4 s.; and 3 s. is the lowest.

28053. Men?

Those that I pay 3 s. to are boys; the men get 6 s., and 5 s. is the lowest.

28054. What do you call boys?

Sixteen years of age; youths.

28055. And the women?

The women I pay from 4 s. to 3 s.

28056. How many learners have you got?

I have three.

28057. What would they be getting?

Two get 1 s. 6 d. a day; that is the lowest; one gets 2 s.

28058. What work do the women do?

They are felling; the men are making the work ready for the women, and they are finishing it.

28059. What do you say is the lowest the women are getting?

One shilling and sixpence a day.

28060. And the highest 4 s.?

Four shillings.

28061. How many have you got at 4 s.?

Three.

28062. And how many at 1 s. 6 d.?

Two.

28063. I forget if I asked you how many women you employ altogether?

Eighteen altogether, men and women; I have eight men.

28064. And ten women?

Ten women. Sometimes I employ more; it all depends. There are difficulties to get them now.

28065. You work only for one firm?

Yes, only for one firm.

28066. Have you worked long for that same firm?

Yes, three years.

28067. Before that, you worked for somebody else?

Yes.

28068. How long have you been in this business?

Twenty-eight years.

28069. As an employer?

No. I have worked in London for fifteen years.

28070. As a journeymen?

As a journeyman.

28071. Nobody working for you?

No.

28072. And how many years have you been in Liverpool?

Three.

28073. And you went from London to Liverpool and set up there?

No. I went from London to Leeds.

28074. And then from Leeds to Liverpool?

Yes.

28075. And then you set up in this business?

I have been working for myself in Leeds.

28076. In

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Mr. BERNSTEIN.

[Continued.]

28076. In the same line?
In the same line.

28077. Employing others?
Yes.

28078. How much capital did you start with?
I could not exactly tell you now; it was about fourteen or fifteen years ago when I first started.

28079. I understand you to say that you worked for about fifteen years as a journeyman?
Yes, as a journeyman.

28080. And that for three years you have been employing others?
No; three years I have been working in Liverpool.

28081. How long have you been employing others?
Ten years I have been employing in Leeds; about 13 years altogether.

28082. And you cannot remember exactly what you started with when you set up to employ others?

No. I had been a journeyman, and earned good wages, and I gathered some money together to start with; I could not tell you how much.

28083. What part of the work do you do now; you superintend it, I suppose?
Yes.

28084. Are you obliged to work for this firm only; do they make it a condition that you should not work for any other firm?
No.

28085. Are you at liberty to get work from any other firm?
Yes, whenever I can get it.

28086. Are you pretty busy all the year round?
Yes.

28087. How many days a week?
All the year round on an average we can work four days; now we work full weeks, but during the slack time we can work four days.

28088. Do you work overtime?
Not much; sometimes we do, early in the morning.

28089. Do you generally use up your legal allowance of overtime?
I could not tell you exactly.

28090. You are allowed so much overtime by law?
Yes.

28091. What I want to know is whether you generally work as much overtime during the year as you are allowed by law?
We do not work as much overtime as we are allowed.

28082. Have you far to go to get your work?
No.

28093. Do you get it out every day?
Three or four times a day.

28094. You get it out from the firm you work for three or four times a day?
No.

28095. Every day?
Yes, every day, as soon as it is ready, we get it out.

28096. How do you know; do they let you know when it is ready?
We go up sometimes, and sometimes they let us know.

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Mr. BERNSTEIN.

[Continued.]

28097. And if you have not work, what do you do with your hands?
They always know beforehand.

28098. Do you mean that they never come and find out that they have no work to do, and have to wait?

No, it never happens with me. I tell them the exact time to come, and when there is no work I tell them, and I tell them the exact time when they should come.

28099. They are never disappointed when they come?
No.

28100. Have you anything more you would like to say?
No.

28101. Lord *Monkswell*.] As to overtime, do you fill up the overtime book?

I do not, as a rule, make overtime.

28102. But when you do, do you fill up the book?

No, I do not because it is not worth while; sometimes we work an hour overtime during the week, and sometimes we do not.

28103. Does the factory inspector come?
Yes, he has been a few times in my shop.

28104. You ought surely to fill up the book?
I did not buy it. I have not a book; I have the factory rules, but I have not a book yet.

28105. And you have been how many years without a book?
I have had a book in Leeds, but I have not had a book in Liverpool.

28106. How long have you been in Liverpool?
Only three years.

28107. You have been three years without a book. Were you born in England?
No.

28108. Are your workpeople mostly English or mostly foreigners?
Partly English, partly foreigners, about half English

28109. Half the men foreigners?
The men are all foreigners.

28110. The women are partly foreigners and partly English?
They are partly foreigners and partly English.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MRS. EMMA MEAKIN, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

28111. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?
Vest-maker.

28112. Do you make vests for different firms?
No.

28113. Only for one house?
Yes.

28114. Do you contract to make them for so much a-piece, or so much a dozen, or what?
So much each.

28115. According to the quality of the goods?
Yes.

28116. Have

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Mrs. MEAKIN.

[Continued.]

28116. Have you got a shop?
No.

28117. You work in your own rooms?
Yes.

28118. Is there anybody but yourself working there?
I have got two girls of my own, and nine other girls.

28119. And you carry on work in your own house?
Yes.

28120. In one room?
No, in two rooms.

28121. How long have you carried on this business?
About seven years, working for one firm.

28122. Have you ever been visited by the factory inspector?
Yes.

28123. Have you ever been visited by the sanitary inspector?
I think all the inspectors belonging to the Factory Act have been to my place.

28124. Do you know whether any complaint has been made by the factory inspector or the sanitary inspector?
I do not know.

28125. Do you mean that there was no complaint, or that you do not know whether there was or was not?
I do not know.

28126. At any rate, you have heard nothing about it?
No.

28127. Can you tell the Committee what price you contract to make these waistcoats for?
I get from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. a-piece.

28128. When do you get the work out?
I get it out whenever I send in for it

28129. When do you send in, every day?
Sometimes every day, and sometimes every second day. Sometimes we do not require to send in every day.

28130. What is your usual custom, every day?
Generally I send in every day.

28131. And you get paid when you bring it back?
No, I get paid every Saturday?

28132. Do you work on Mondays?
Yes.

28133. Full time?
Yes.

28134. And Tuesdays?
Yes.

28135. Every day, except Saturday?
I work on Saturday till four o'clock.

28136. And what are your hours on other days?
Eight to eight for workers; but I work longer hours myself; I work from about half-past six every morning until eight o'clock.

28137. Are you working full time all the year round?
I do not get much slackness.

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Mrs. MEAKIN.

[Continued.]

28138. Are you working every day of the week all the year round?

Yes. There may be one or two days in the stock-taking time when I am out of work.

28139. But even in the slack time of the year you are generally making full time every day?

Yes.

28140. How many apprentices have you got?

Three.

28141. What are you paying them?

Two shillings and sixpence a week each.

28142. Do you pay them 2 s. 6 d. when they first come to you?

No; 2 s., and then I rise them 6 d. in a few weeks, according as to how they learn.

28143. Do not you ever pay them 1 s. when they first come?

No.

28144. Never less than 2 s.?

No.

28145. Do you know if that is the general custom, to pay 1 s.?

I do not know.

28146. At any rate you never pay less than 2 s.?

No.

28147. And then you raise it to 2 s. 6 d.?

Yes, according to how they learn I raise the wages.

28148. And how long would you consider them to be learners or apprentices, two years?

Some of them are two years, and some are longer.

28149. And what would be the highest they would be earning as learners?

Eight shillings, improvers.

28150. But you would never be paying learners 8 s. a week, would you?

Improvers we call them.

28151. After that, what do you pay them?

Then they are able to work for themselves. When they get to be improvers, I pay them 8 s. a week, and when they get along and learn they are able to take work out for themselves.

28152. Do you mean that all your hands that you employ are learners or improvers?

Not all of them; they do not all stop with me.

28153. How many learners have you got now?

I have got nine; three apprentices and six improvers; and my own two daughters.

28154. And that is all you employ?

Yes.

28155. The lowest you pay is 2 s., and the highest is what?

Eight shillings.

28156. How do you calculate what a hand is worth; do you consider they ought to be able to do so much in the day?

It is just according to how they come to me. Some of them come from good shops to me, and whatever wages they ask for I give them, and then when I see them get used to the work I raise them. None of my improvers have ever asked me to raise the wages.

28157. But that is not an answer to my question. Supposing a hand comes to you, how do you settle whether to give that hand 2 s. or 3 s.?

According to what they ask me I give it to them.

28158. Do

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Mrs. MEAKIN.

[Continued.]

28158. Do you mean that if they ask 3 s. you give them 3 s., and if they ask 2 s. you give 2 s.?

Not an apprentice, if they have not worked at the trade before.

28159. Do not you settle in your own mind that they ought to be able to do so much work in such and such a time?

No, because there are so many, and the work is passed from one to another that I cannot know what they do.

28160. How do you know what to pay them?

I know by the work at the latter end of the week when the work is done.

28161. You think they ought to be able to do so much work in the week; is not that so?

Yes.

28162. Do they ever take any work away with them to do?

No.

28163. You would not allow that?

No.

28164. And what have you to find; you have to find the workroom and the thread?

Yes.

28165. And the sewing machine?

Yes.

28166. Then about their meals, do you find them anything?

No.

28167. They have to provide themselves?

Yes.

28168. And as soon as they become skilled hands they leave you?

Yes.

28169. And you take on another improver or learner?

Yes.

28170. What part of the work do you do?

I fit up, and I get the work ready for them.

28171. Did you tell me what you pay your machinists?

They are my daughters.

28172. Your daughters do all the machine work?

Yes.

28173. Does it ever happen that your hands come to you when when you have got no work for them to do?

Very seldom; it may be at Christmas when they are taking stock.

28174. In such a case you pay them only the time they are working?

Yes.

28175. Are there any deductions made from the wages you have mentioned?

No.

28176. No deduction of any kind?

No.

28177. Lord Clinton.] Your hands work in your dwelling-house, do not they?

Yes.

28178. Are they in the ordinary rooms of your dwelling-house?

I have two rooms in which they work.

28179. But are the rooms provided on purpose for them?

Yes.

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Mrs. MEAKIN.

[*Continued.*]

28180. You say the inspector has been to visit your workshop ?
Yes.

28181. How did he know that you had set up a workshop ?
I do not know.

28182. You did not give notice ?
No, only when I moved, then I sent notice.

28183. How long ago was that ?
Three months.

28184. Has he inspected you since, within three months ?
Yes.

28185. How many years were you in your former house ?
Three years.

28186. Were you inspected there ?
Yes.

28187. How did the inspector know that you had set up a work-room there ?
I do not know.

28188. You did not give notice ?
No, I did not know anything about the law then.

28189. He had to find out for himself ?
Yes.

28190. However, you were inspected ; he found out that you had a workshop ?
Yes.

28191. Before that had you a workshop ?
No.

28192. Lord *Monkswell.*] Does anyone sleep now in either of your work-rooms ?
No.

28193. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Are they well ventilated ?
Yes.

28194. You do not get them stuffy ; the workers do not find them close ?
I do not keep any fires in them ; the irons are kept warm downstairs in the kitchen.

28195. The factory inspector was satisfied, was he, with your new rooms ?
He did not say anything about them.

28196. Lord *Monkswell.*] How many hours do your hands work ?
From eight in the morning till eight at night.

28197. Do they ever work overtime ?
No ; I work myself more than those hours ; but the hands do not.

28198. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] You give no notice to the factory inspector of the overtime ?
No, because I do not keep any of the workers overtime ; if there is any overtime to be done I do it myself early in the morning.

28199. Lord *Monkswell.*] And your daughters ?
Yes.

28200. *Chairman.*] You must have a pretty constant change going on in your shop ; as the hands become skilled workers they leave you, do they not ?
When they learn and raise themselves, then they leave.

28201. Do you know what becomes of them ; do they set up for themselves then in the same kind of business as you are in, or what do they do ?
Some of them do that.

28202. Is

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Mrs. MEARIN.

[Continued.]

28202. Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee?
No.

28203. Did I ask you how long you had been in that business?
About seven years, working for one firm.

28204. Are you getting the same prices now as you were seven years ago?
Yes.

28205. Just the same; no change at all?
No.

28206. Are you paying just the same wages now that you were seven years ago?
Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. LLOYD WILLIAMS, is called in; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

28207. *Chairman.*] ARE you a member of the firm of Peter Williams and Company?
Yes.

28208. Wholesale clothiers?
Wholesale clothiers.

28209. Do you manufacture for the home trade and export trade?
Both.

28210. Where is your place of business?
Paradise-street, Liverpool.

28211. Have you a factory?
Yes.

28212. How many hands do you employ inside?
About 200 in the factory and warehouse, on the premises.

28213. That is the factory and the warehouse?
Yes.

28214. How many of them would be employed in the manufacture?
Something like 160 or 170 in the factory.

28215. Men and women?
Very few men; men cutters, but all women workers.

28216. Then do you put out some of your work?
We put out the greater portion of it.

28217. To outworkers or to other masters?
Mostly outworkers.

28218. Would they be women?
All women outworkers.

28219. But would these be individual that work for you, or do they employ labour themselves?

The great majority of them work themselves, families; a mother and a daughter, or a couple of sisters, perhaps, and a mother.

28220. And they employ no other labour?

Not as a rule; they might employ one person, a girl, to carry the work backwards and forwards.

28221. And part of your work, I understand, goes to other masters?
Yes; all the coats?

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Mr. WILLIAMS.

[Continued.]

28222. Do you make any of the coats on your own premises?

None whatever.

28223. What do you make on your premises?

Different kinds of trousers, cloth trousers and moleskin trousers, and cotton jackets; that is the bulk of what we make on the premises.

28224. No waistcoats?

No waistcoats at all.

28225. How would the waistcoats be made?

We have two hands, what we call middlemen. That Mrs. Meakin, who has been a witness to day, is one, and we have another one; and all the others are made by young persons at home.

28226. In their own homes?

In their own homes. It is a class of work in which labour is very scarce in Liverpool in our trade in the wholesale clothing; and that accounts for Mrs. Meakin saying that as soon as they were skilled workwomen they left her, because we are only too glad to take them on.

28227. How do you pay for these vests?

The average price would be one shilling a waistcoat. We have a few lower, and they run up to 21 s. a dozen; that is 1 s. 9 d. each. Our work is in bulk; we are entirely wholesale; we do not sell single articles; so that the work is given out in bulk.

28228. In what quantities?

That depends upon the cutting; they are all cut by machinery, and there might be a dozen in the cutting, or there might be twenty, or more.

28229. It is given out in bulk, but charged for at so much per piece?

Yes.

28230. Then in the case of vests that are made by what you describe as a middleman, or vests that are made by an outworker, would the same price be given in both cases?

The same price exactly.

28231. You would know, I presume, what people can earn at those prices?

I have got a note here that the average wages of the waistcoat hands would be 12 s. each person; but it is impossible to get at what they could do; they have their own domestic duties to attend to; they are not continuously at it; some weeks they earn a good deal, and other weeks they will not feel inclined to work so hard, and their wages will consequently be less.

28232. Do I understand you that no vests are made on the premises?

No cloth waistcoats are made on the premises; we make a few moleskin waistcoats, but that is a different class of trade altogether.

28233. Then as to the coats, do you make some on your own premises?

None on our own premises.

28234. How do you pay for them?

The average price of coats would be 2 s. We make some low, very common stuff, for shipping, that we pay 1 s 9 d. for; but that is very low stuff for export.

28235. And what would be the highest?

Five and sixpence is the limit.

28236. But in this case also some would be made by outworkers, and some made by middlemen?

In the coats they are all made by middlemen.

28237. And that is the price you pay them?

That is the price we pay them.

28238. Have

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Mr. WILLIAMS.

[Continued.]

28238. Have those prices varied much of late?

I rather fancy the last two years they have been reduced somewhat on account of the competition.

28239. I suppose you would know, would you not?

I think they have. One of the middlemen really would say better than I can as to that.

28240. But you have to pay them?

But we have different men for the different departments, and I could not speak quite with certainty; but I think they are somewhat lower than they were two years ago.

28241. How do you arrange the price?

The different qualities are paid different prices.

28242. Do you arrange the price in consultation with the middleman, or do you fix the price?

We fix the price.

28243. Is there much competition among the middlemen?

No, not in Liverpool.

28244. I mean, does it happen to you that, having fixed a price, a man will come to you and say that he can afford to do it cheaper?

No, that never occurs. It may happen that they grumble about the price, but we never do reduce them unless there is a Leeds' house or a London house selling the same particular class of suit at a lower price than we could afford to do it for.

28245. Do you know anything of the prices that middlemen pay for coats?

No. From what I understand they all pay their labour by the week.

28246. Are the prices that you pay the middlemen fixed in accordance with the statement prices, the log?

We have nothing at all to do with retail tailors; they are two distinct trades.

28247. Does not the log affect the wholesale trade at all?

Not at all. All our classes of goods are for the working classes; they are not for the better class trade.

28248. I suppose the number of houses similar to yours is very numerous in Liverpool?

No; three in the wholesale at the very outside I can think of. There are some big retail houses that make their own goods.

28249. Do you settle the prices that you pay the middlemen in consultation with each other, wholesale and retail?

No, we act independently of each other; each firm acts entirely independently.

28250. As to the trousers, do you make them on your own premises?

We make just about one-half on our premises, the cloth trousers.

28251. How do you pay the men inside?

Those are all women; 3 s. a dozen for machining.

28252. And how much for the other class of work?

Finishing, 3 s. to 4 s. a dozen; and after that they have to go into the hands of pressers.

28253. And what would that be paid?

That is 1 s. 6 d. a dozen.

28254. What would that come to altogether, the various processes?

About 8 s. 6 d. the average.

28255. Now what do you pay for those that are made up outside?

Those would be 10 s. 6 d. outside. That is all what we call domestic labour;

they

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Mr. WILLIAMS.

[Continued.]

they are made by young girls working at home. There are no middlemen in our employ in trousers; I think there are only one or two in Liverpool.

28256. That is 10 s. 6 d. outside as against 8 s. 6 d. inside?

Yes, that is the average; they run up as high as 18 s. a dozen.

28257. And outside they have to find the thread and machinery, and so on?
Yes.

28258. What do you suppose that comes to?

The thread in machining runs 4 d. a dozen, and in finishing 2 d. and 6 d.

28259. They are more highly paid outside than inside?
Certainly.

28260. How do you account for that?

We have to provide a factory, and we have to provide machinery, and we have to provide the driving power, and men to look after the hands; there is a great amount of expense connected with the inside labour.

28261. On the whole, which is the cheapest for you?

We would prefer them working outside, only that we have not the command over them. We have to have a certain number of hands in the factory, otherwise we could not get our orders through. The outside workers will only work when it really suits them. These cloth trouser hands are a very respectable class of women; they live at home with their parents, and they really will work only when it suits them.

28262. As a rule they employ no hired labour, you say?
As a rule they do not.

28263. Members of their own family?
Yes.

28264. Is your business confined entirely to clothing, coats, vests, trousers, and so on?
Yes.

28265. Do you make shirts?
Yes, we make shirts.

28266. How is that branch carried on?
Entirely outside.

28267. What do you pay for them?
The lowest priced shirt that we make is 1 s. 9 d. a dozen up to 5 s.; the average price would be about 2 s. 6 d.

28268. I presume you cut out all the work on your own premises?
Entirely, by machinery.

28269. All by machinery.
Yes.

28270. Have you clothing establishments anywhere else?
No.

28271. Have you ever been in business anywhere else?
This is a new factory. We have never been in business out of Liverpool; we have a branch at Cardiff, but that is only a sort of office, a sale room.

28272. How long have you been in business?
I should think since my father started it would be 50 years; he died some eight years ago.

28273. In your experience has the price of ready-made clothing, such as you manufacture, diminished largely, or diminished at all?

I think prices are lower than what they used to be. Now, even shirts, the low-priced shirts, the lower class of shirts for shipping, we have to get all made in Manchester; we cannot make them in Liverpool for the money.

28274. How

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Mr. WILLIAMS.

[*Continued.*

28274. How can you get them cheaper in Manchester than in Liverpool?
The labour is concentrated more; that is the only way I can account for it.

28275. Do you think that the tendency, is that the demand for a cheaper class of goods, or rather an inferior class of goods, is increasing or diminishing?

Our trade is certainly increasing; I think so. I think working men are dressing better than they used to dress. They used to confine themselves principally to moleskin trousers; now they go in for the low-priced cloth trousers. Cloth is remarkably low at the present time, and has been for some few years now. A working man now can get very respectable looking trousers for very little money.

28276. Is a large part of your business for export?
No, the greater portion is home.

28277. Do you belong to any association in Liverpool?
No.

28278. Lord *Clinton*.] How do your out-workers get work from you?
They send for it.

28279. Do they send for it every day?

It just depends, as they want the work; every day as a rule. When we have any work in that is wanted in a hurry we send it to them; we have a number of little girls called runners for the purpose.

28280. Does it often happen that when they they come for their work they have to stand about waiting for it?

Yes, they have to wait very often, and wait some little time, wait in the factory. They might have to wait an hour for that particular class of work.

28281. And then they have to bring it back?
Yes.

28282. Do you supply them with anything?
No, they supply themselves with everything.

28283. Do you know the places where they live?
Yes, certainly; we have their addresses.

28284. Have you any means of knowing how the work is done?

If they are slow with the work, as these outside workers often are, our passers have to go round and hurry them.

28285. I meant rather as to the rooms?

I should certainly say they work in their own living houses. They do not employ any outside persons; a mother and daughter, or a couple of sisters will do it.

28286. *Chairman*.] You say you have some knowledge of the places where your work is made up outside?

Not personally.

28287. I mean do you know anything as to their sanitary condition?

No, I cannot say that I do, except that, judging from their appearance, they are most respectable looking women, and I do not think it is possible that they could live in an unsanitary place.

28288. Do they work entirely for you, or for other firms as well?

We make it a condition as far as we can; we are always full up of orders; we have no slack season except twice a year for stock-taking, and that is only for a few days, and for the last five or six years we have had as much work as we could turn out.

28289. You make it a condition that they should work for you alone?
We do.

28290. Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee?
I do not think so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

16th May 1889.

MR. JOHN ALLEN, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

28291. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your firm ?
Richardson, Dunlop & Co.

28292. Tailors ?
Yes, our firm is in the best class private trade.

28293. That would be bespoke trade ?
Yes ; no ready-made trade.

28294. Are you connected with any masters' association ?
Yes, I was the honorary secretary for our association last year ; I was president two years ago ; and when I received the notice to attend before this Committee I suggested to the secretary that he ought to call the Master Tailors' Association together, and he did so last Monday night, and they voted that I should go up with full powers to speak on behalf of our association. Our association numbers 25 of the first-class trades in Liverpool ; and one of the conditions of our membership is that we pay to the time-log mutually agreed between the masters and the men. I have brought a copy of it (*handing it in*).

28295. Is this the log at present in operation ?
It is.

28296. I see this is dated " 1868, as amended in 1882 " ?
Yes, that is the log that has been already referred to that we work upon.

28297. And these prices, fixed in 1882, are still in operation ?
They are.

28298. With no deduction or discount off ?
None whatever.

28299. I see there is a report of your association for 1888-89 ?
There are one or two things in that that I perhaps might call attention to.

28300. Was there a sub-committee appointed to investigate this question of so-called sweating ?

There was a year ago, and I was a member of that committee, and Mr. Dakin was the other member ; there were two of us appointed to watch the movement.

28301. What was the cause of the appointment ?

We heard that it was likely this inquiry would be extended to the Provinces, and as our association was in fullest sympathy with the inquiry, and very much opposed to anything like sweating, we were appointed to give any assistance we could to any commissioner that would come down into the provinces to assist the inquiry.

28302. Then you made a special inquiry, did you ?

We were unable to elicit very much ourselves ; but we did elicit this fact, that amongst the trades that we represented as a society, sweating is really quite unknown.

28303. That would be entirely in the bespoke trade, the order trade ?
Yes, the better class trade.

28304. Do you make everything in your own place, on your own premises ?
No, we do not ; we employ one outside trouser maker, and we get part of our waistcoats made out. At times we get all our waistcoats made upon the premises, but my experience is that the men are unsteady at times, and when we have determined to do without out-vest hands, we have been forced by the unsteadiness of our men to take on outside vest workers again.

28305. You

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Mr. ALLEN.

[Continued.]

28305. You have both male and female labour, I suppose, in your factory?
We have no women at all working inside except a female machinist (and an assistant), and she is in a separate room by herself.

28306. And you pay all your hands according to the log?
Strictly to the time-log.

28307. That is so much an hour?
So much an hour.

28308. What is the rate?
It is 6 *d.* an hour with the garment. Of course a man may make 10 days a week if he likes to work hard at it; and, in fact, I have seen the case frequently; it has occurred very often lately during a busy time.

28309. That is to say, you calculate so many hours to a garment, and pay for the garment at that rate of 6 *d.* an hour?

Yes. The coat I have got on would start at 28 hours, at 6 *d.* an hour; there would be a couple of hours for the basting, an hour and a half for something else, and, to put it roughly, it would cost us about a sovereign to make such a coat as this which I have on.

28310. You have got one trouser hand outside?
Yes. He is paid to the log also. He was formerly an inferior foreman, who never cared to go back to the board again, and we think it is right and kind to give him work in his own home; no one helps him except his own boy, whom he is bringing up to the business. We know that his house is nice and clean, because we send our trimmer periodically to these places where work is done for us.

28311. These vest hands, are they paid according to the log?
No, they are not. There is a little difficulty between us and the men's society in the matter of vests; because when the machine-log was made, at the time the log was revised, there was no provision made for vest-making, and since then, machines have been introduced into almost every firm in Liverpool, and no provision is made for deducting anything for machine work in vests, and consequently the result is that the log is inoperative, practically, in the case of waistcoats. To vest hands outside we pay from 4 *s.* 6 *d.* to 5 *s.* per vest, and inside they are paid about 5 *s.* to 5 *s.* 6 *d.*, and deduct nothing of any machine work done to the garment.

28312. All females?
No, they are all men that we employ inside.

28313. But outside?
It is a man who is supposed to superintend it, and his own family looks after it, in the vest making.

28314. Practically, I presume, the prices are about the same inside and outside?

I think it is a little higher inside; it is a little higher, as a matter of fact, inside.

28315. They earn a little more inside?
Yes.

28316. Is the trade generally carried on on the same lines, as you have indicated, among these firms that belong to your association?

Yes; there are a few that get some things made out, but really to a very slight extent. There is an impression upon the part of the men that very much more is made outside than is really the case.

28317. Are more women employed now than formerly, do you know?
No, that is not my experience at all. I have heard what has been said here to-day, but that is not my experience.

28318. Is it in your experience that skilled labour is becoming scarce?
It is.

28319. How do you account for that?

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[Continued.]

Well, there has been no attempt to bring up tailors in Liverpool, not for some years. The apprenticeship system is entirely broken down, and we depend for our tailors upon raw youths who come from country places where they have learned their business, and in time they are licked into shape; but they are very raw to begin with. To that I attribute the falling off in the number of men to a large extent.

28320. The apprenticeship system has broken down, you say?
Yes.

28321. How is that?

I really can hardly tell your Lordship how it is. I think that the men did not favour it; but I can hardly tell you.

28322. We have heard a great deal about the existence of what have been termed middlemen in the clothing trade in Liverpool; have you anything to say about that?

The better trades in Liverpool know nothing about such men.

28323. But in other branches of the trade?

Of course I do not know anything about middlemen at all.

28324. Then what has been termed sweating would not affect your business at all?

We are told very often by workmen when we employ outside vest-workers that we employ sweaters. I have been accused of sweating, because I have employed this particular outside man that I have spoken of. I think that there is a bit of difficulty about the definition, not really, but there is when we come to argue and talk about it.

28325. In any case I should gather from you that in your opinion swating if it exists, is confined to the wholesale business?

No, not to the wholesale trade only, but to the cheap bespoke trade also. The wholesale trade is what I should consider factory-made trade; but the cheap bespoke trade is the trade that is the bane of this country as regards tailoring, in the way of sweating.

28326. Perhaps you will explain that a little more to us?

There has been a great change in the nature of the tailoring trade, in my experience, which is one of 19 years. I have been with our present firm seven years as an employer, and when I came to the trade first it was the practice, if a man wanted a cheap suit to go to a cloth merchant and buy a length of cloth, and then go to some small tailor, perhaps working at home, who would make it up for him, and he would get a good honest suit, and would not pay a much for it; but now-a-days we can hardly afford to keep a wholesale cloth merchant in Liverpool; I think there is one or two; but if a person wants a cheap suit now-a-days, they go to these big and brass and glass advertising places who, to give them this cheap suit, employ these sweaters that we have heard about.

28327. It has been suggested to us in evidence that all employers should in some way or other be compelled to provide sufficient premises to have all their manufacturing carried on in their own premises. What do you say to that suggestion?

There is a very strong feeling on the part of our association, that with the exception of vest-making, all other work should be made on the premises. We have only one fear in the matter, and it is this: We are afraid that when the men's society have got us, as it were, with all our hands in our shop, they will take advantage of it just to force up prices. There is that feeling. And with regard to a statement that was made that prices had not gone down whilst labour has been cheapened, I may say the prices in the best class of trade in Liverpool to the wearer have not been raised since we only paid 4½ *d.* an hour, and now we pay 6 *d.* an hour. There has been absolutely no raising of prices in that time.

28328. I presume production is cheaper, is it not, owing to the introduction of machinery?

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Mr. ALLEN.

[Continued.]

No, it is not ; we get our cloth a little cheaper now-a-days, but labour is dearer and our prices are the same.

28329. Why do you except vests when you say that there is a general opinion that, with the exception of vests, everything should be made up on the employer's premises ?

Because vests have been made outside from time immemorial ; no one in the trade can say when that began in the trade ; and we consider that the outside respectable female vest-maker has as much right to live as the inside working man. She is paid very fairly, and is very well satisfied, and there is no complaint. There has been a suggestion in Liverpool that we should take these women in on sanitary grounds, that we should find the workshop for them ; but when that has been hinted to the men we have had it hinted back to us that there would be a strike if we did so. There is no doubt the men's society in Liverpool is very much opposed to the introduction of female workers on the premises, and I think they are quite as much opposed to them off the premises ; and if you would like anything in proof of that, I have it in this paper.

28330. We have had it in evidence, I think from Mr. Goodman, that he desired that the women should be employed inside in factories, because if they were employed together they would be able to combine ?

I have got the short-hand notes written out by Lee and Nightingale, of Liverpool, according to which Mr. Goodman, at the conference between six men and six masters, two or three weeks ago, stated that in his opinion, if we were to offer to pay the women 9 *d.* or 1 *s.* an hour, the men would not agree to their being brought into our workshops.

28331. In your opinion the men would not approve of the women being brought in ?

No.

28332. In your opinion do the men object to female labour altogether ?
Yes ; that is my experience.

28333. Even if they were paid at the same price as men ?
Yes ; I do think so.

28334. Do you know anything of the places where these vests are made up ?

We do ; we know the homes where they are made up ; we make it part of our business to see to that.

28335. Why ?

Well ; because we think that it is only right that, as employers making garments for some of the first gentlemen in Liverpool, we should know where our garments are made up, and that they are made up in a cleanly and sanitary way. There are some vests that are made up outside much cleaner than they are made up inside. I refer to white waistcoats and washing vests generally. One of the resolutions of our society is that where out-labour is employed the master shall satisfy himself that the work is made up under thoroughly sanitary conditions.

28336. Then it has been suggested also to us that all places where work is carried on should be registered and should be subjected to supervision under the Factory Act ; what do you think about that ?

We say, decidedly, that it ought to be so.

28337. Even purely family workshops ?
Yes, even purely family ones.

28338. Do you mean on sanitary grounds ?

On every ground we think that they ought to be inspected ; and we think that every employer ought to give a list to the Government inspector, of all persons employed to work at home or off his own premises ; we think that should be insisted upon.

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28339. Do you know anything at all about the subject of foreign immigration?

As an association we have discussed the matter, and we are opposed to it in the main, and we passed a resolution that the importation of pauper aliens be prohibited, with this condition, this prohibition not to extend to skilled workmen imported under contract. We make that an exception because we are afraid to be left too much at the mercy of our men, and in the case of a strike, or anything of that sort, we want to be free to go to the Continent and engage what number of men we want; and we do not consider that we are bringing paupers into the country when we do that.

28340. You think that the foreigner should not be free to come to this country if he wishes to come to it, and go into this trade, but that you ought to be free to import him if you want him?

We think he should not, if he is a pauper, be allowed to come into the country.

28341. But that you ought to be allowed to import a skilled man if you want him?

Yes.

28342. Do you think that the presence of this foreign element in Liverpool amounts to an evil?

We do.

28343. In what way?

Because it tends to unduly lower the rate of wages; we consider that it tends very greatly to this sweating evil. We want to see people paid a fair good living wage, and we think that this foreign competition pulls it down very unduly.

28344. Does it not enable the goods to be manufactured cheaper than they otherwise could; or do you think that a higher rate of wage could be paid without increasing the cost of production?

No; I think it would increase the cost of production, but I think that the garments would be worth the extra money that they cost both in wear and in every other respect.

28345. It would cost more but would be better?

It would be better, but it would cost more.

28346. It would be good value for money, you think?

Whoever bought it would get better value than they do at present, in my opinion.

28347. Is foreign immigration increasing, do you know, or decreasing?

I am not in a position to speak about that; I cannot say. I should say it is increasing.

28348. But you think, at any rate, that it has had a material effect upon the clothing trade and upon the condition of the workers?

It has.

28349. Have you any idea under what conditions it should be allowed, or how it should be restricted?

I must say that I should not be opposed to similar laws to those that they have in the United States. They turn paupers back there, and I do not see why we should not do so. At the same time they will not allow contract labour to come into the place; of course from my standpoint, I think they make a mistake there.

28350. Therefore you would not be prepared to advocate the system pursued in the United States in its entirety?

No.

38351. You would prefer no interference?

No;

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[Continued.]

No; I would prefer interference to things remaining as they are, even if I could not get all that I wanted in the matter; I think the working-classes would be better off if there were such interference.

28352. I suppose by a "pauper" you would mean a person who had not sufficient means to support himself for a certain time, or who was not possessed of knowledge to enable him to earn a living?

Precisely so.

28353. Earl of *Derby*.] As to the immigration of foreign labourers, I understand your point of view to be that no man should come into the country who has not some reasonably assured prospect of being able to make his own living when he arrives here?

Yes.

28354. But I suppose if you engaged a man in that way the engagement would be only temporary; there would be no security that he might not, after a few weeks or months, be thrown upon the Poor Law.

It would have to be temporary in the nature of things, but I think that if something of the passport system were introduced into it, and our British officials abroad gave the passport under proper conditions, it would be binding upon the importer of that labour, but naturally it would be temporary to a certain extent more or less.

28355. Lord *Clinton*.] Has there been any considerable increase in the demand for cheap clothes of late years?

There has; and that is a further reason to my mind for the decrease in the number of men employed on the premises. It is not that the better trades employ women or sweaters to any extent, and certainly not women to a greater extent than formerly; but there has been such a demand for cheap clothes of late years; it is quite a new trade that has sprung up in Liverpool within the last 15 or 20 years, this cheap trouser business and cheap clothes generally; and we think that is the reason, along with the want of apprentices, for the falling off in the number of the workmen in the shops.

28356. One of the causes of sweating is the employment of unskilled labour?

Yes.

28357. But if there is a demand for cheap clothing does it not show that the purchasers are satisfied with it, and get what they want?

It does; I am told by my customers that they would prefer to buy two or three pair of trousers for the price they would pay me for one pair, and throw them over when done with.

28358. You would interfere with that?

I would like to.

28359. That might not be to the advantage of the public?

I think it would.

28360. There being such a demand for this cheap clothing it looks as if people were thoroughly satisfied with what they got?

You might argue that certainly.

28361. You spoke of the unsteadiness of the men; what do you mean by that?

We find that a great number of working-men are perfectly indifferent as to what promises you make to your customers about the time you will finish certain garments for them, and although you may allow plenty of time to the man to make it he will go off and get drunk in the middle of it, and think nothing of it.

28362. Does that apply to special seasons?

In busy seasons they are worst. In the slack time when they have plenty of

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[Continued.]

time to drink they will not drink, but as soon as the sun shines, and the trade pours in, they are off. Of course there is a large contingent of respectable men to which this remark does not apply.

28363. We have heard that there is great difficulty in getting them to work on Mondays; do you find that?

We do, but not so much as formerly; I quite agree with what Mr. Goodman says that there is an improvement in that respect.

28364. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Would you object to the importer of contract labour being obliged to make provision for sending the imported labourers back to their own country if he ceased to employ them?

I would not; I think that would be a very proper requirement; I think we ought to be compelled to send them back if we do not continue to employ them; they should not be left a drag upon the labour market.

28365. You think it not unreasonable that there should be that kind of importation of foreign labour, even if pauper immigration was stopped?

Yes.

28366. *Chairman*.] Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?

I have just pencilled down a few things that we should like done and like not done. I think we have gone over them pretty well. The registration, and the permission to go abroad for this skilled labour; and we are certainly opposed to anything which would interfere with us employing waistcoat women outside. We think there ought to be more inspectors. If the country at large will insist on having cheap clothes, I think they should indirectly pay for it in their taxes for further inspectors to see that they are made up in such a way that they are not a danger to the community. We think that any restriction, too, in the sale of liquor, everything of that kind, would really tend to improve and elevate the working classes.

28367. That is beyond the scope of our inquiry?

We think the Monday question is rather bound up with that.

28368. As to the hours of work, do you think that they should be limited in any way?

I think the eight hours per day movement is absurd; it would be very nice if it could be done, but I work more than eight hours, and I am quite satisfied. We think the work could not be done under such limitations; and, as for being able to spread the work over the entire year, I think that is simply ridiculous. You must have your work in rushes in the tailoring trade; and I think, if the men knew the things that belong to their proper interest, they would settle down to that work when the work came in, without having to call in all these extra hands that they seem to think it would be so delightful to see employed; we do not think so, we think they make a mistake there.

28369. You think that male labour should not be limited at all?

No.

28370. It has been suggested before us to-day that where men and women work together, the men should be subjected to the same limitation of hours as the women; and also it has been suggested that it might be advisable that male labour should be limited also, even where women are not employed?

My experience of the working men in societies is that they are very well able to secure any terms that they may find to be just and reasonable for themselves without Parliament interfering in the matter.

28371. Is there anything else you would like to say?

I do not think so; I think it has all been touched upon.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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MR. HENRY SYLVESTER RICHMOND, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

28372. *Chairman.*] You are an Inspector under the Factory Act, are you not?

I have been so for 17 years.

28373. You are now?

Yes; I was appointed in 1872.

28374. In Liverpool?

Yes.

28375. Have you heard the evidence that has been given before the Committee to-day?

I have heard it all.

28376. As to the sanitary condition of these shops which have been described as sweaters' places; as to the general condition of them; what have you to say?

I think most of the sweaters' shops are very fair in that respect. There are always a few new ones springing up, which we have to check, especially with regard to overcrowding; a very large number of them now are held in workshops outside the houses, and those ones are generally clean and well-ventilated.

28377. Do you mean the shops in the yards, or where?

They are hired workshops, not connected with the house in which the sweater lives, most of them; but there are a good many where the sweater uses two or three rooms at the top of his own house, which are workrooms, but ought to be bedrooms. Those are generally bad; they are very low, and therefore they are always being overcrowded; and that is one difficulty we have. Those are the worst workrooms, as far as regards the sweating shops. Those outside are generally pretty good.

28378. The domestic, or family workshops rather, outworkers' shops, as they have been called, I presume you have nothing to do with?

Domestic workshops, to a certain extent, are mentioned in the Factory Act, but we have really, practically, no control over them; they are not required, I mean, to have an abstract of the Act hanging up, and the sanitary parts of the Act are left to the sanitary authority; there is really very little for us to do there at all; in fact, it has come to be a matter of course that we do not visit them; when we find that they are domestic workshops they are generally left alone.

28379. By domestic workshops you mean what?

Where members of the same family work in their own house.

28380. What occurs in a case where members of the same family work, but employ others also, as regards overtime; would members of the same family be allowed to work overtime when the others were gone?

Strictly, I do not think any but members of the firm, that is the employers themselves, are allowed to work beyond the legal hours. I do not think it would really be legal for a man to employ his own wife in that way; but still that is a matter we do not very much interfere with when it comes to simply their own family; but we really look only to the *employés*.

28381. Would it not be very difficult for you to interfere; take an imaginary case, where a woman and her daughters are working, say, and employing five or six other hands, and after the hands have left she and her daughters continued working; you would not interfere if they worked all night, would you?

I should not. Of course we may carry our powers a good deal further

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[*Continued.*]

perhaps than we do ; but we do not like to carry them to that point ; that would interfere with comfort.

28382. Then, practically, most of these out-door workers do not come under your jurisdiction ?

The outworkers, a number do ; the large amount of the out-door workers are people who employ hands, but there are a number especially of women making vests who work only in their own houses, and employ nobody ; but there are as near as I can make out from my register about 100 sweating shops, really and truly sweating shops, where the middleman hires his own hands, and takes in the clothing that has been cut out by the master for him to make up ; there are about 100 of those, and there are about, as near as I can gather, 700 hands employed in those 100 sweating shops.

28383. They would be making coats chiefly, I suppose ?

No, they are making coats and trousers and waistcoats. I think there has been a little confusion about how far the sweating system is connected with the different branches. I make out that there are five, as it were, independent branches of the tailoring trade in Liverpool. The first are the high-class tailors, who are all members of the Master Tailors' Association ; they have their own workshop, and really send out very little more than vests. Then there are a second class of master tailors who have shops in the principal streets in Liverpool, and who, to all appearance outside, may be high-class tailors, but have not a workroom at all ; these send out all their work. Then there are the wholesale clothiers, who have their own workshops on their own premises, and also send out a great deal of work to the sweating shops. Then the fourth and fifth are the so-called sweaters' shops, the one being middlemen who work for what I term Class 2, that is to say, the master tailors who in appearance, and by their position in the principal streets, appear to be high-class tailors, but who have no workroom, and who send out their work to a middleman. But the wages paid to the middleman in their case are much higher than the wages paid to Class 5, which are the lower class of sweating shops, who make work almost entirely for ready-made stock for No. 3, which is the wholesale clothier.

28384. You would divide the sweating then into two classes ; those who work for the bespoke trade and those who work for the wholesale trade ?

Yes, the difference being that the wages paid for a coat to the No. 4, that is to say middlemen, who make only bespoke trade, range from perhaps 4 s. 6 d. up to 15 s. or 16 s. a-piece ; but the others range from about 1 s. 2 d. or 1 s. 3 d. up to 4 s.

28385. Is there much difference in the character of the shops ?

There is not much difference in the sanitary arrangements, and so on ; of course the wages are very different, and as they are smaller places generally, there are not so many hands employed. One of these men who work for the master tailors, I have spoken of, who have their shops in the principal streets, employs generally but a few hands, perhaps half-a-dozen ; something like that. With regard to the larger sweating shops (the largest of all are those who work for the wholesale clothiers), the largest in Liverpool, I think, employs about 30 hands, and that is a trouser-maker. Then nothing but coats are made by the foreign sweating shops, that is among the German and Polish and Russian Jews ; they make almost exclusively coats, and the waistcoats are made partly by people of the class of Mrs. Meakin, who gave evidence here, who employ a certain number of hands under them, perhaps a dozen hands or so, but chiefly in private houses. Then the trousers are made some of them in large sweating shops, but rarely by any but English, Scotch, and Irish ; in fact, a great many Irish ; in fact in the largest trouser sweating shop in Liverpool the majority of the hands are Irish.

28386. How do you account for the fact of the coats being in the hands of foreign Jews and the trousers in the hands of the English, Scotch, and Irish ?

I do not know how to account for it, beyond the fact that I think the foreigners come over knowing how to make coats ; I do not think they understand the
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[Continued.]

other much, and, therefore, when they come to Liverpool they take up the branch that they know.

28387. Better wages are earned in making coats than in making trousers, are they not?

In ready-made clothing, the coats are more, no doubt; the trousers in the lowest class, as far as my inquiries go, seem to be from 3 s. 6 d. to 11 s. per dozen.

28388. That is the price paid to the sweater?

Paid to the sweater; and the coats range from about 1 s. 2 d. to 4 s. a-piece; that is in the lowest class.

28389. Have you got a list of the prices paid to the sweaters and the wages paid by the sweaters; have you made out any list?

I have got this; as far as I have been able to get them from different places, I took them down in the different shops from the mouths of the operatives themselves; in each place they varied it to a certain extent, but not, perhaps, so very much.

28390. Perhaps you would let us have them, or specimens of them?

I made these inquiries with a view to the report which was sent to the Home Office, which I think was afterwards sent on here. (See *Appendix A. to the Third Report.*)

28391. How did you select these places that you visited?

I selected rather men who employed the largest number of hands. I was called upon for the report just before Christmas, and just as I was leaving Liverpool for Christmas, and I had not time to visit the whole hundred, so that I selected some of different classes; that is to say, where the foreign element was, where the English element was, where waistcoats were made, where coats were made, and where trousers were made; I took specimens of each.

28392. Do you find the foreigner and English working together?

In most of the shops; there are very few where Jews only are employed; in fact, the whole time I have been in Liverpool there is only one man who has given me notice, the legal notice, that he meant to employ none but Jews. You see they may work on Sundays, if they undertake not to employ Christians.

28393. But if they employ Christians?

Then have no right then to work on Sundays?

28394. As a matter of fact, do they?

Well, I heard, in evidence to-day, one of them say so.

28395. We have had it in evidence that the sweaters themselves are mostly Jews; is that so?

I think of the sweating shops, of which, as I say, there are about 100 in Liverpool, fully half are Jews.

28396. How long have you been in Liverpool?

Seventeen years, the whole time I have been an inspector.

28397. Would you say that the foreign element is increasing or decreasing?

It has been increasing very much during the last few years; there is an increase in the number of sweating shops, a very great increase; there were not near so many a few years back.

28398. Do you know at all whether they come to Liverpool direct from abroad, or whether they have migrated from other parts of England?

As far as I see of them I do not think they can have come direct from abroad, because it seems to me that they can all speak more or less English; it is very rarely that I come across one who cannot speak English at all, not in the tailoring trade; only in the cabinet trade, where they come from Russia direct.

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[Continued.]

28399. As regards that, in your opinion, does the same system of so-called sweating exist in other trades?

To a very small extent I think anywhere in Liverpool in any trade except the tailoring; in fact it was so small that it was not worth while entering into it.

28400. Such as it is I presume it would be of the same nature as what exists in the tailoring trade?

Yes; the foreign element I found was growing in the cabinet-making.

28401. Do you think an addition to the staff of inspectors is necessary or desirable?

I think that we have got more than we can get through very comfortably. You see it is not as if the workshops were all that we have to attend to; it used to be considered that factories were our chief work; the workshops have been added to that afterwards; our original work was factories only, and all the workshops have been put on to that during the last 18 years.

28402. Do you think that there would be any advantage in appointing as sub-inspectors men who have a practical knowledge of the trade?

I do not think, as far as technical knowledge of the trade goes, it would be any good whatever. It does not enter into the question; in fact we have so many trades to look after that any one man having a technical knowledge, though he might be useful in a question of his own trade, would have no knowledge of others. For instance, myself, I have to visit all the slate quarries in North Wales; I fail to see what good an operative tailor could do in a slate quarry in Wales. I do not think that technical knowledge could be brought in to any advantage.

28403. Do you find much difficulty in finding out where work is carried on?

There is a great deal of difficulty in finding out these sweaters' shops because they spring up in back streets, where they work in their own houses; they are not by any means in good streets; their houses are not very cleanly, where they work in their own houses. I think it is far better that they should not be allowed to work in their own houses; that they should be all workshops outside the house. I do not think the bedrooms at the top of a small house, and in a street of not a very high order, are fit for work rooms. They are generally, or many of them, not more than about eight feet high, and these sweaters seem to think that, as so long as they can seat people, find chairs for them on the floor, they are not overcrowded. Of course the view that we take of it is the number of cubic feet, and although the floor may hold 20 people, yet the cubical contents of a room only eight feet high are very small indeed. We have a minimum of 250 feet for each person.

28404. Do you consider that that is sufficient?

I think 250 is; but even 250 in a room that is very low is not as good for the workers as 250 in a high room.

28405. I understand you to mean that you think that people should not be able to employ labour in their dwelling rooms?

• Not in dwelling-rooms.

28406. Or do you mean that you would prohibit any labour being carried on in a dwelling-room; would you allow, for instance, a woman and her daughter to work in it?

I would not interfere with them; there is no over-crowding in a case like that; and they generally work in their own sitting-room, and make it as comfortable as they can for themselves; but I am speaking now of the sweating shops, where the middlemen employ hands.

28407. Would you be in favour of the compulsory registration of all places where work is carried on?

I think it would be a very great advantage. At present it is a chance whether we find them or do not. At present, I may say, I think there is not a single sweater's shop in Liverpool that I do not know; but still at the same time

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[Continued.]

time you have to be constantly keeping your eyes open to find out where they are springing up.

28408. Is there anything else you wish to say ?

I should just like to say that with regard to the Master Tailors' Association they are high-class tailors, and I do not think that this sweating system in any way enters into it at all, or that there is any connection between the two ; but it does enter into the question of the second class tailors, that is to say, those who pay a fair rate of wages and charge their customers pretty good prices for their clothes ; there it does enter in, but it does not enter into the question of the higher class tailors ; and the Operative Tailors' Society I do not think are affected by it at all. I think, also, I should like to say about sanitary matters, that the sweating shops are, in Liverpool, and have been for some time much better ordered than those of the high-class tailors. The worst work-room I can think of now in Liverpool is one of a master tailor who employs none but men, and therefore does not come under my supervision, and he has a shop in one of the best streets in Liverpool. The worst, I think, are among the high-class tailors.

28409. If he does not come under you, how do you come to know anything about him ?

We have the power of entry into his workshop ; if we think that either women or young persons are employed, we can obtain admission to see for ourselves ; but finding that there none but men, the sanitary part of the Act does not apply to him, and the hours of labour do not apply to him in any way.

28410. In such a case, would you report to the sanitary authority ?

If we find anything very bad we report it to the sanitary authority ; but still the sanitary authority are very slow to take action in any case of that kind, unless it is a positive nuisance ; I mean because the workroom is a bad one, and because the walls have not been limewashed, they are not particular ; but if there is a nuisance of any kind there then they will take action.

28411. Do you mean to suggest that the factory inspector should have sanitary authority in a case of this kind ?

I would suggest that all workshops of this kind should be registered, whether they employ women or young persons or not, or only men ; I would have them registered just the same if they employ only men ; and then the sanitary part of the Act should apply to them just as it does to those where women are employed.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. LEWIS BERNSTEIN, having been re-called ; is further Examined,
as follows :

28412. *Chairman.*] CAN you explain why it is that the coats are chiefly in the hands of the Jews, and the trousers are not ?

Yes. When the Jews come over to England of course they are journey-men tailors ; they can do either coats, or trousers, or waistcoats, but why they start with the coats is because it pays them better, and the Englishmen take to the trousers ; they are more used to the trousers, and they think they can make more money by the trousers than they can do by the coats. And with regard to what these gentlemen say about the sweating system, and their wanting to make away with it, I do not see why they complain about it. We are not in their way at all ; we are not taking their bread away ; we are doing our work, and getting our living ; and, moreover, we are employing girls whom they would not employ. For instance, I have girls in my workshop now to whom I pay 3s. and 4s. a week ; and if that wholesale trade were to be made away with they will not have a job ; the bespoke shops would not take those girls in. So that in the wholesale trade all those women are employed ; they get a living out of it as well as we do.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next,
at Eleven o'clock.

Die Martis, 21^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT :

Earl of DERBY.

Viscount GORDON (*Earl of
Aberdeen*).

Lord CLINTON.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven
and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. THOMAS GALL, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

28413. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business or trade ?
A tailor.

28414. Are you working at your trade now ?
Yes.

28415. In Sheffield ?
Yes.

28416. Do you hold any office in any trade society ?
I am Secretary of the Sheffield Branch of the Amalgamated Society of
Tailors, also a member of the Executive Council of that body.

22417. How many does your branch number ?
Two hundred and four on the 30th of March, probably 230 now.

28418. It is increasing in numbers ?
Yes, this time of the year.

28419. But I mean during the last few years ?
The last few years it has been at a standstill, about 200, on an average 200 .

28420. Do you know how many men are employed in Sheffield in the
tailoring trade altogether ?
We estimate upwards of 600.

28421. Six-hundred men ?
Six-hundred men.

28422. How many hands altogether, do you suppose ?
That we could not say ; we could form no opinion, seeing that they are so
scattered and that we have no means of access to plenty of the places in which
they work.

23423. Are a great many women employed, do you think ?
Yes.

28424. More women than men ?
No.

28425. Have you got a statement of prices ; a log in Sheffield ?
Yes.

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Mr. GALL.

[Continued.]

28426. Is that pretty generally paid up to by masters?

About 100 men receive strictly to the Operative Tailor's time list, 100 men belonging to our society, I mean.

28427. How many masters would that represent, do you suppose?

Twelve.

28428. Would they be in the better class of the trade?

Yes.

28429. Bespoke goods?

Yes.

28430. Is there much ready-made clothing made in Sheffield?

Not much ready-made in Sheffield; large quantities sold, but made principally in factories in Leeds and Bristol.

28431. Has the ready-made trade gone from Sheffield to Leeds and Bristol?

Yes, on account of those towns having large factories for the purpose of manufacturing ready-made clothing.

28432. Then this clothing never was made in Sheffield?

Yes; formerly a large quantity of ready-made clothing was made, but not to the extent to which it is now sold.

28433. Then where is that which used to be made in Sheffield made now?

Principally in those factories.

28434. Can the ready-made clothes be made cheaper in Leeds and Bristol, do you suppose, than in Sheffield?

Yes, I suppose owing to the machinery and that like established in those factories, and methods of pressing and that like which are not to be found in any of the places in Sheffield.

28435. Then the bulk of the trade in Sheffield is bespoke?

Yes.

28436. How is it carried on; is the manufacturing done principally in the factories or workshops belonging to the masters?

A large quantity of the work is made on the employer's premises; but a great quantity is made off the employer's premises. There are a number of employers, nine, that have no workshop at all; and some of those are very respectable tailors doing a good class of trade, and their work is cut and sent to all parts of the town to be made.

28437. They would take the orders, cut out the goods, and distribute the material through the town to be made?

Yes.

28438. In what kind of places is it made; I mean, is it made by individuals working in their own rooms or by small masters?

Much of it is made by individuals working in their own rooms; some is made in fairly good shops by men that perhaps will employ one or two women, or it may be a helper or two, and some have a young man or two as improvers, and in two or three instances as apprentices.

28439. What do you call the people who work in their own houses; out workers?

We call them sweaters. Our notion of a sweater is any person who fetches work from the establishment and employs others than himself to make that work.

28440. What I want to know is what you call the operatives who work in their own homes; do you call them out-workers, or how do you describe them?

A person that works in his own house and employs only himself, or perhaps his wife and daughter to do his machinery for him, we call an out-worker and admit him as such to our society.

28441. You admit to him to your society, you say?

Yes, and we pay him the same benefit as we receive ourselves.

28442. Are

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[Continued.]

28442. Are they paid according to the log?

Some of them are paid according to the log; but they labour under a great disadvantage, seeing that they have to find their own workroom, principally their own working material, such as the silk and that like used in the making of the garments, and their own light and fire.

28443. Then how is it that so much work is carried on by these out-workers, why is it that more tailors are not employed on the premises of the masters?

On account of the employer wanting it done much cheaper, I presume; I cannot see any other reason for it.

28444. Do you mean that these out-workers would prefer to work in large hops?

No, they prefer to work out; for the simple reason that they get much more work than they would get if they sat in the shop to take their share. They work it at a cheaper rate, and consequently the employers get it done at a cheaper rate to increase their profits.

28445. If these outworkers prefer to work outside, is it not likely that that is the reason why so much of the work is done outside, that the men like it better themselves?

Yes; I should say that is it.

28446. Do you think it is objectionable in any way that the work should be done by these outworkers?

Yes.

28447. Why?

I think so, on account of what we very recently experienced in Sheffield; a very large outbreak of fever that we unfortunately had during the autumn of 1887 and the spring of 1888. The work was scattered broadcast then as usual, and it was not known where it was made. We know many instances in which the poor men themselves, or their families, were afflicted with that disease, and the work was still carried on; whereas if they had been in the shops they would have been compelled to have left off work at once, when they themselves or their families are afflicted, and we should have paid them at the rate of 15 s. a week, till the medical officer had certified their house free from infection; and we did do so to the extent of 33 l.

28448. Then you object to outwork on the ground of public health?

Yes, that is one ground.

28449. On any other ground?

On the ground that it lowers the price of our labour altogether; simply by giving the employers a much greater opportunity of getting the work done at a cheaper rate. In many instances I know where it is done at this cheap rate; the employers charge just the same price as they charged formerly when it was made in the shops.

28450. What you object to is the out-worker underselling the man who works on the employer's premises?

Yes.

28451. And how would you propose to remedy that?

I would propose to remedy it in this way: that it should be compulsory for all places where work is done to be registered as workshops so that they could be visited.

28452. What effect would that have?

It would have this effect in my opinion; that they would not be able to employ the people that they do now employ and employ them for hours that the law does not allow that they should be employed, were it known that these places exist.

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[Continued.]

28453. You think that the man working in his own room, and employing say his wife and his daughter, ought not to be allowed to work longer than hands employed in a factory?

Just so.

28454. If that were done, do you think that the operatives then would prefer working in large shops or factories?

I believe they would prefer working in shops to a much greater extent than what they do now, seeing that they could not get in the labour of their families or the young persons that they attempt to teach the trade in six months, which they certainly could not do.

28455. Now tell me about these people; what do you call them learners or apprentices?

I call them learners. I had an instance that occurred in my own family three weeks ago. An advertisement was in a paper for a girl to learn waistcoat making, and my girl just turned 13 who had received certificates for efficiency in sewing in the school, applied to this place, and she was told she could go for six months for nothing; after that she would receive 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. I allowed the girl to go for four days until I knew from whence the work was fetched; because it came to the girl's turn to fetch the work from the employer's establishment, and the work that was fetched in in some instances was 50 per cent. lower, and in every instance was 30 per cent. lower than what it would have been if made in the shop. In that one house there were five girls, employed by the lady that occupied the house which was in a very respectable part of the town; and these people were all working and not one of them receiving wages. When the six months was ended the girl would have to go, and she could not possibly know the trade in that time, nor could she attempt to make a garment in that time, or to make a vest in that time.

28456. Were they taken with a regular agreement, or just a verbal understanding; how are these learners engaged: is there any kind of indenture?

There is an agreement drawn up. After the first week I was to go and sign an agreement that this girl should work from eight o'clock in the morning till seven o'clock at night, of course having the usual meal hours, for six months for nothing; then if efficient 3*s.* 6*d.* a week would be allowed for the next six months, by which time she would be perfect.

28457. Do you say it is impossible for a girl to learn the trade properly in a year?

It is impossible for a girl to learn the trade in three years. It seems rather queer that a girl can go, and learn a trade in three years, and we ourselves, who were properly indentured, served seven years, and generally speaking five years, and then when we are turned into a decent shop we find that we know very little, and have to commence to get instruction from other men then.

28458. But these girls, I understand, are employed on making vests?

They are employed on making vests, trousers, and boys' clothing as a rule. Of course they do some portions of the coat, such as putting in the button-holes, and felling, and that like; but in this instance that I have named there was nothing but vests made.

28459. Do I understand you that it is the custom, when the girl has completed her six months of working for nothing, to discharge her, and take on another girl?

Discharge her and take on another; hence they are always having labour and paying no wages.

28460. I thought you said just now that an agreement was entered into the first six months for nothing, and then six months for 3*s.* 6*d.* if efficient?

Yes; of course they would be much more improved at the end of the 12 months.

28461. But if the agreement is for 12 months, how is it that the girl is discharged at the end of six months?

There

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[Continued.]

There is a clause inserted in the agreement, that the girl shall stay another six months at 3 s. 6 d. if efficient; but a hole is picked in the clause by saying that she is not efficient. As a rule it is so; I do not say that in no instance is the agreement carried out.

28462. Do you object to that system of learners?

Yes.

28463. What would you have instead of it?

Have the girls properly apprenticed to learn a portion of the trade with efficient instructors. Let their parents pay a small premium, and let them learn the trade properly. We do not object to them competing with us at all.

28464. Do you object to female labour?

No, not at all.

28465. Is more work done by women now than formerly?

Yes, much.

28466. In all branches of the trade?

In all branches of the trade.

28467. You do not object to that at all?

Oh no, not at all. If I might be allowed to do so, I should like to read a minute passed by our executive council, which would just answer that question: "Colne. Read letter complaining of a machinist being employed to make the ordinary trade, previously made by the men in the shop. Resolved, that we have no power to interfere with the right of an employer to employ any one he may choose, to make his trade." That was a resolution passed by our executive in April in that year, on a complaint being made from Colne.

28468. Can you give the Committee the prices that are paid to these sweaters; what did they get?

I could not give you the average price paid.

28469. But I think you said that the sweater frequently gets less than the workman would get working on the premises of the employer?

As a rule, he gets less. At times a ticket has been brought with the price of the garment on, by our own men, to show us; that is, members who are out-workers have brought tickets from their fellow out-workers to show us the prices they are getting, which are in every instance very much less.

28470. And then the sweater has to make his profit out of the labour into the bargain?

Yes.

28471. Do you know the wages they pay their workmen?

I do not.

28472. Do you know if they are paid by the piece, or by time?

They are paid by time. I know in some shops that the women are not allowed to commence their work till a Wednesday, except only in the very busy seasons.

28473. Why is that?

Because there is not work for them, I presume; and then they work very long hours the latter end of the week; we ourselves have watched them to see the hours that they leave their shops.

28474. You say that the women are not allowed to begin to work till Wednesday, but you say that you presume it is because there is no work for them to do. If there is no work for them to do, they cannot work?

In some of those shops a machine person must start a day or two before the hand sewers can commence to work; the greater part of the work of this description is done by machinery, and the machine person must have a start of the hand sewer.

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[Continued.]

28475. So you mean that there is work for them to do ?

At the latter end of the week there is work for them, when it is got ready. In the making of this cheap clothing, the machine person first takes hold of it and then the hand sewer.

28476. I understand that perfectly ; but I do not understand what you mean by saying that there is no work for them to do at the beginning of the week, but at the same time complaining that they are not allowed to work at the beginning of the week ?

It is to the sweaters' advantage to keep it back.

28477. But you think that there could be work for them ?

Yes.

28478. Then why is it kept back ?

So that by working at high pressure at the latter end of the week they complete a quantity of work, but only part of a week's wages is paid.

28479. Then do you say they work very long hours ?

Yes.

28480. Do you mean in their own homes or in the sweaters' houses ?

In the sweaters' places. We have formed ourselves into district visitors to watch those people leave the premises of a night, and in the latter end of the week it is very very late.

28481. What do you call very very late ?

I saw some on Saturday night a quarter after ten ; that is very late.

28482. Do you know what time they went to work ?

I could not tell what time they went to work.

28483. But are not these places subject to the Factory Inspector ?

Yes.

28484. Do you mean to say the Factory Act is violated ?

It is violated.

28485. Constantly violated ?

I could not say that. It is an utter impossibility for the Factory Inspectors to visit an approximate number of the different shops that would come under their supervision in Sheffield.

28486. They cannot find them out, you mean ?

Oh, no ; there are hundreds of places where people work in their own homes in various trades, and it is an utter impossibility for the inspectors to find them out. Two men could not look into the half of the shops of the town alone, let alone the outside district which they have to look to.

28487. Have you any idea what the women get paid ?

I have no idea what the women get paid, except only as to the machinist that machine in the shop ; their wages vary, some of them being as low as 10 s. and some as high as 18 s.

28488. What do you mean by the shop, large premises ?

In a shop. In a first-class shop as a rule ; it is a lady that machines.

28489. Are there many contracts for clothing made up in Sheffield ?

Yes, there is a goodish number of contracts made in Sheffield. There is a large contract of course for the police clothing, and according to the last contract that was issued by the corporation, the garments were to be made free from the sweating principle ; but they were made on some slightly different plan ; that is to say, they were more sub-divided this last time than before. The trousers were made in the same way, but the coats were more sub-divided than what they ever had been before ; and the prices of doing the small parts, put together, actually made them less to produce the whole garment.

28490. I understand

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[Continued.]

28490. I understood you that in the last contract there was a clause compelling the work to be done on the premises of the contractor?

To be done, not on the premises of the contractor, but on premises free from sweating.

28491. What did they mean by "free from sweating"?

I presume they meant free from the low rate of wages that is paid for that clothing. I do not know what was the notion of the corporation, but that was specially stipulated in the contract.

28492. Have you seen the contract?

I saw the advertisement. I did not think it was necessary to bring the advertisement.

28493. What were the words used?

"To be made free from sweating influences."

28494. And you think that referred to wages, not to sub-contracts?

Yes, I think that referred to wages. The garments were made in very comfortable shops, clean shops, in a much better position than what they were, for sanitary arrangements and such like. They have been made in the same shops for some years now.

28495. As a fact, was this contract executed on the premises of the contractors?

No.

28496. It was put out to sweaters?

It was given out to two outworkers that employed a large number of people.

28497. You call them outworkers now. Do you mean the men whom you called sweaters before?

Yes.

28498. Employing labour?

Yes, employing labour, setting men to work and paying them wages, and discharging them.

28499. How did these outworkers get the work; did they contract for a certain price, or how?

Many of the people that were employed for them went to the contractor's place for work, and they were sent up to the outworker's establishment, the sweater's establishment, where the work was being made (I am speaking strictly on the coats now), and a telephone was affixed from the contractor's premises to the sweater's workshop, and he was told to set such and such a person to work. One man machined the curved seams of the coat, such as the back and across the waist, and that like.

28500. What I want to know is, who paid the labour, the sweater or the contractor?

The contractor paid the labour.

28501. And paid the sweater too?

The money was sent to the sweater, and handed over to the other people.

28502. Then the whole work was carried on direct by the contractor, but not on his own premises?

Yes.

28503. And the out-worker, whom you call a sweater, worked himself, I presume?

Yes, but very little.

28504. And was paid wages, regular wages, like everybody else?

Oh, no.

28505. How did he get his profit?

He got his profit by paying these other people a little less.

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[*Continued.*]

28506. You told me just now that the contractor himself paid the wages ?

The contractor himself sent the wages to the shop ; then the other man paid them so much less. The gentleman who had the contract recently admitted in a public meeting that he paid more for the coats to this sweater than what the sweater paid to the men.

28507. That you think is objectionable ?

Yes, very.

28508. How do you think these police contracts, for instance, should be made ?

They should be made so that there is a fair rate of wages : I do not say that a rate of wages could be paid to pay us according to the list price. We do not object to making any class of work that is contract work on a cheaper scale ; we have frequently done it, and would be only too glad to do it again at this dull season of the year, when this work is made ; but the contracts are issued at such a low figure that it is impossible for the contractor to pay the full price that is asked for making garments in a reasonable manner.

28509. In this case that you have spoken about, did the corporation not pay a sufficient price to the contractor ?

They did not pay a sufficient price to the contractor to allow the contractor to pay good wages.

28510. Then you object on two grounds ; first, that the corporation do not pay enough ?

Yes.

28511. And, secondly, that the labour employed did not get the wages that the corporation give ?

Yes.

28512. Lord *Clinton*.] Was there any agreement with the contractor as to the wages he was to pay to the men under him ?

None whatever.

28513. It was left to him entirely to pay the wages to the people ?

Entirely ; only that his shops were to be in good condition, and that like ; and they certainly were in good condition.

28514. *Chairman*.] Well, how would you suggest that the price for a contract of this kind should be settled ?

I would suggest this way : that the employers and the workmen should have sample garments before them ; and I feel sure that the men would meet the employers willingly to make those garments at a very reduced scale of wages, seeing that they could be made, and are always made, in the very dull season of the year, namely, from January to the latter end of March ; when we have scarcely any work at all to do we could do these. I have frequently worked on contract work, and I hope you will allow me to tell you respecting the contracts.

28515. And you think that the price should be settled, a fair rate of wage should be settled, between the employer and the workman ?

Yes.

28516. And then I presume you would suggest that the corporation should insist that that rate of wage should be paid ?

Then I would suggest that it would give an opportunity to respectable employers to tender for those goods, and let them be made under proper sanitary conditions, and a rate of wages paid at which men can live ; because we, as rate-payers, want to live as well as other people by our labour.

28517. What do you want to say about the contracts.

There is another contract that in 1864, 1865, and 1866, I worked at myself, in what was then the best trade in Sheffield ; there were over 40 men of us, the whole of the year. I refer to the clothing that is worn by the toll collectors in the various markets of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, collectors of tolls from
the

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[Continued.]

the dealers in wares in the markets. Those men wear a livery that is edged with scarlet, and there is a lot of very heavy work in them; there is a large quantity of pockets in them, to hold various styles of books, ink-bottles, and other things that they have to use in their calling. We made them in Alderman Neill's shop, and were paid the town price for them. Then there is a large number of decayed tradesmen in the Shrewsbury hospitals that also wear the Duke of Norfolk's crest on their coats, or did at that time. We made those coats, a sort of an overcoat, at 6 s. 3 d. each in the dull season of the year, when we earned fair wages; that is, we could make four of them if we worked a week through from Monday to Saturday afternoon, and that we considered reasonable wages in the dull season of the year. I have tried in vain until Saturday to find where they have been made since; I know where they have been measured for since; they have not been made in any respectable establishment whatever; they have been measured for by [] in [] street.

28518. You need not mention any name in your evidence unless it is necessary?

They have been measured for by a respectable firm, it used to be, that had three of the largest shops, and probably no better shops exist than those three. I have never seen any any better; but they are closed up now, and every particle of clothing is sent away, and those markets clothes sent away too; but this last year they have been made, and the contract taken, by a firm in the town. I know that the coats were made at something not approaching half what we men used to get for them, and foreign sweaters made them, the coats. The trousers were made by a man who employed some 10 or 12 women perhaps; I know myself that he employs 8; but perhaps the evidence will furnish the exact number to you. And the waistcoats were made by various people about the town. I myself heard that complaint from one of the women that made one of the waistcoats edged with scarlet, about the miserable pittance she was getting for it; and we think, as men that dwell in property owned by his Grace, that it is a great hardship that he should really encourage such work; in fact we think that his Grace does not know that it is done.

28514. Formerly these coats were fairly well paid for, and were made by men on the premises of the manufacturer?

Yes.

28520. Now, I understand you, they are very badly paid for, and are made up by sweaters?

Yes.

28521. How do you account for that fact, that they are made that way now and were made the other way 20 years ago?

I cannot account for it myself. I think it is a great hardship on the part of his Grace, if he knows of it, to take them away from a respectable firm where they were made, and a fair price paid for them. We did not object to make a certain portion of the trade at contract price.

28522. Do you know what is paid for the coat now?

I do not know. I know one gentleman that was offered one for 8 s. 6 d., and he refused to make it, of course.

28523. I mean the price that is paid for the goods when they are finished?

I believe 3 l. 5 s.; I am not confident about that; it is only hearsay; probably the correct price may be supplied to you by a gentleman in a different position to myself.

28524. Do you know what they were worth at the time you spoke of?

I could not tell you, because they were a superior quality of cloth, and were got up from extra strong material, and everything to stand the hard wear. I examined two of the coats myself last week, a workman's and a person's that collects the toll in the market, and certainly they are badly made, and they will certainly stand no hard wear such as the men require them to do.

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[Continued.]

28525. Lord Clinton.] How often do they have these coats ?
They have them every year.

28526. They only have to last a year ?
Yes, they have to last a year, and they get extra cats to do their rough work, to cleanse the markets and that like, at stated times besides.

28527. Has it been always the case that they had to last a year ?
Yes.

28528. Chairman.] You said just now that these coats were made by foreign sweaters ?
Yes.

28529. Are there many foreign sweaters ?
There are a few ; not so many in comparison with what we read of in other towns, and what I have seen myself in other towns.

28530. Do you mean that there are not many foreigners in the trade at all ?
In the town ; of course I am speaking of the town.

28531. Is machinery much employed in the tailors' shops ?
Not much in the shops ; it simply does ornamental work in the shop.

28532. The machining is all done outside, as a rule ?
As a rule, the work that is done outside is principally machine work, but in the shop the machine simply does the ornamental work, such as stitching the edges of a coat and the lining inside ; they do straight seams, but not anything in the shape of a curved seam.

28533. Do you consider that the employment of machinery is objectionable ?
Not at all.

28534. I mean, do you think the work is as good ?
If it is properly done it is good. It wants doing by a skilled person, and a proper machine, and material to work with.

28535. Now, you objected just now to this outworking on account of infectious diseases ?
Yes.

28536. Have you anything to say about the sanitary condition of the outworkers' places, or of the shops ?

This last few years there has been a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the outworkers' shops, owing to the frequent visits paid by the factory inspectors. They have received information that the places were in a very insanitary condition. With regard to one of the places I have just named, where the police clothing was made, a short time ago there was no sanitary convenience to it whatever. Now it is in a proper state, and I have just described that as a good shop ; and the medical officer of health, and the gentlemen under him in his department, in every instance where I have given information respecting unsanitary places, have looked to them, and they are put in a good state. We have no reason to find fault with any of those outworkers' places at the present time ; but about five years ago they were in a very bad state indeed, and some of our own shops that we were in as well. They are put in very good order now.

28537. Is it part of your duty, as the secretary of your branch, to give information to the inspector, and so on ?

No, it is not, it is no part of my duty ; but once when waiting on the Home Secretary some years ago, when our conference was held here in 1877, he told us to give that information at any time. It is objectionable, of course, in any way to act the part of an informer ; but seeing that it is for the benefit of the people that work in those unhealthy places, I have done so, and I am very glad to say that through the assistance of the factory inspector and the medical officer of health, and the gentlemen under him, they are put in a good state, and our own shops are kept cleansed and that like, now.

28538. I think

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[Continued.]

28538. I think you said that you do not suffer from foreign immigration at all; you have no complaint to make upon that?

Very trifling; it is exceptional with us; we have an occasional one or two, but it is not worth speaking of.

28539. Is there a regular system of apprenticeship on the part of tailors? Not in Sheffield.

28540. Not at all?
Not at all.

28541. How is a man taught his business?

A man takes generally his own son, or the son of some other tailor, and they have a verbal agreement for a given time probably; I never knew of a written agreement in the town, not a proper indenture.

28542. Is there any difficulty in getting skilled labour in Sheffield?
No; if they are willing to pay, there is always sufficient skilled labour.

28543. Boys or youths are taught this trade in the industrial schools, and so on, are they not?

Youths are taught to sew in industrial schools; but it is an impossibility to instruct a lad in an industrial school to be a tailor.

28544. Why?

For the simple reason that he is only kept there during his youth, and he has only one class of stuff to sew at, probably cotton, cord, or fustian, or something of that, and rough coarse pilot; they could not possibly learn the trade at such work as that; and we find that is a hardship, that when those youths leave those industrial schools, they come out, and they get frequently into the hands of the sweater, and he makes proper use of them.

28545. You mean improper use, I suppose?

He takes them for a length of time, and gives them very little money, probably only their food for a short time, and a little clothing, and so on.

28546. I suppose the same would apply to prisons?

Yes, it does apply to prisons, and to workhouses too.

28547. Then would you suggest that, instead of being merely taught to sew, they should be taught some branch of the trade?

They should be taught the trade efficiently, or they should be taught up to a certain point, and then, when leaving those institutions, apprenticed to some respectable employer under a proper indenture, and let them learn the trade efficiently, so that that they are workmen when they leave their apprenticeship, and can get their living in a reasonable way.

28548. I should gather from what you say that, in your opinion, there is a great deal of unskilled labour?

Yes; and produced in the way that I speak of.

28549. An excess of unskilled labour?

Yes.

28549*. And, as regards the way in which the work is carried out, as I understand you, your opinion generally is that all places where work is carried on should be registered, so they should be known to the inspectors, and that they should be subject to the same rules and regulations as apply to factories and workshops?

That is so.

28550. And, if that were done, you think that the general result would be satisfactory?

Yes.

28551. Lord Clinton.] Do you know any cases in Sheffield in which the sweaters

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sweaters or middlemen who are employing tailors under them to make up goods are not themselves tailors, and know nothing about the business?

I do not.

28552. That is not the practice in Sheffield?

It is not the practice there.

28553. Then, with regard to these girls whom you say get nothing for six months, do they get any food?

Oh, no.

28554. They have to find their food?

They have to find their food.

28555. And have they to work every day?

Every day.

28556. Every day in the week when there is work for them?

Yes.

28557. That is the agreement, in fact?

Yes.

28558. Earl of *Derby*.] They are paid, I presume, by the opportunity of learning the business?

Yes.

28559. Lord *Monkswell*.] You say that about 100 out of the 230 men in your branch are getting wages according to the log; do you think those 100 men are better workmen than the others who are getting less?

Yes, much.

28560. That is the reason why they get the log trade?

No; the reason is that they are doing a higher class of trade. I am not saying that the other people could not do the better work; but the other people are doing a cheaper class of work.

28561. Probably the 100 men are doing the higher class of work because they are a better class of workmen; the others would be glad to do it if they could get it?

I think not; they earn more money at the other work by doing a greater quantity of it.

28562. Then, do you say that those people who are getting less than the 5 *d.* an hour get as much money as those who work at the full 5 *d.*, because they work more hours?

Yes.

28563. Why cannot the men who are earning 5 *d.* an hour work the longer hours?

We have not the work to do, and if we had we should not work those excessive hours.

28564. The 5 *d.* an hour men are working, on an average, eight or ten hours, I suppose, a day; the others working much longer?

We work simply as the pressure of work indicates. I, myself, this last fortnight, probably, have worked not less than 14 hours a day.

28565. On high-class work?

On high-class work; the highest-class work that is made in the town, probably; whereas, from the July previous I have not had an opportunity of working, on an average, six hours a day.

28566. But if you had chosen to take a lower-class work at lower wages, you might have worked more than six hours?

If I would undertake to do the work at less wages, that would not induce a gentleman to order an extra suit of clothes, so that I might get more work.

28567. But

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28567. But you could, at all times, get this lower class of work, as to which, I understand, there is not so much competition; as much of it as you liked?

No, I could not. I work in a shop. If I am not in that shop every day, if a gentleman happens to order a suit of clothes, and I am not there to make my portion of it, if I went to any other shop, I should be understood to have left the first shop. I have to attend at the shop every day to see if there is work for me, perhaps to go until the Friday before there is anything.

28568. But surely the best workmen will generally get the highest-price work to do, and will be employed longer than the workmen whose work is not so good?

That is so; but there is not the amount of the higher-class work that there is of the middle and lower classes.

28569. It comes to this, that, generally speaking, it is only the most skilful workman of all that can get the most skilled work to do, and plenty of it, and I suppose those who are quite at the top of the tree can get that?

Yes; that does not imply that the man always has work.

28570. But I suppose that if a man is known to be very skilful he will generally get work, even the highest class?

In a proper shop he will get his fair share. A man is not allowed to have more than his fair share in a properly-regulated shop.

28571. That is one of the regulations, is it?

Simply one of the shop regulations.

28572. Do you insist on a regulation of that sort in your union; would you ask one of your men to withdraw from a shop which you considered gave an unfair amount of work to one workman rather than another?

We do not insist on that in the union; it is simply a regulation of the body of men who work in a shop that it would be unfair to see one man with 30 s. on Saturday night and another with only 15 s.

28573. Even though the 30 s. man is the better workman?

The men have nothing to do with that; the employers have to do with that.

28574. I thought you said the men clubbed together to bring pressure to bear on the employer, not to employ these skilled men more than a certain number of hours?

Suppose an employer has a certain garment that he wishes a certain man who is a superior workman to make, he will hold that job until it comes round to that man's turn; he would keep it back till the other men were filled up and came to that man's turn to get filled up.

28575. The shopkeeper would do that in his own interest, you mean; not because any pressure was put upon him by the men?

Certainly; it would be no doing whatever of the union.

28576. You say that outworkers are admitted to your union?

Yes.

28577. Even if they work at reduced rates, are they admitted?

They do work at reduced rates, as a rule, those that are members of our society and outworkers.

28578. Have you any rule that no members may work for less than the log?

No, not at all. The price is fixed by an agreement between himself and the employer; and, if an employer attempts to reduce his wages, the man simply lodges a complaint to us; and, if we think the man is justified in demanding the price, we take means to obtain it.

28579. But, suppose a man was to come to you to interfere between him and his employer, who was working for a less wage than you thought that a

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man ought to work for in your union, would your union do anything for him in that case ?

Yes.

28580. He could make his own bargain with his master for any rate of wages he chose ?

No ; he could not make his own bargain, to go for less than what was the recognised price of that particular shop. We, of course, know that all shops cannot pay the high rate of wages, because they do not work for the same class of customers. It would be wrong to expect a respectable working man, or a man holding a position as clerk in a bank, to pay a high price equal to a large merchant or manufacturer.

28581. But, supposing a particular shop, doing a particular class of work, was to try and make the men work for it at what your union thought a very inadequate wage, what would you do in that case ; would you allow your men to continue to work at that firm ?

If they took our advice, we should advise them not, and support them at the rate of 15 s. a week until they obtained a better price or got work elsewhere.

28582. According to your evidence, the sweater clause (the clause to put down sweating in municipal contracts) is totally inoperative ?

Totally inoperative.

28583. Why does the contractor employ sweaters at all ; why should he not go direct to the workmen, and see that the workmen got all the money that he could afford to pay for the work done ?

I cannot answer why the contractor does not do that. The contractor himself is not a tailor, though he conducts a tailor's business.

28584. Perhaps he went to the sweater, in order that the sweater might choose those men fit for the work ; at all events, he did go to the sweater, and the sweater kept part of the wages ?

Yes.

28585. And you do not know why he went to the sweater ?

Simply to get it done for less than the ordinary workmen would do it for.

28586. You said the ordinary workmen worked for the sweater, and the sweater kept back part of the wage ; why could the contractor not have gone at once to the ordinary workmen and given them rather better wages ?

Because the contractors have no workrooms whatever ; the sweaters have.

28587. The contractor went to the sweater in order to get workrooms in which the men might work ?

Yes.

28588. Is it not difficult to keep up prices if, as you say, men prefer to work for lower wages in consideration of getting constant employment ; is not that one of your difficulties ?

Yes.

28589. You say that the instruction in industrial schools in tailoring is bad ?

Yes.

28590. At what age do you think these boys might be licensed out to be tailors' apprentices ?

At 16. I think they might be taught the rudiments of sewing from any time after they have turned 12, if they have passed the necessary standard in their school.

28591. Would 16 be too old ?

No ; I was nearly 17 when I was apprenticed.

28592. Then, a boy having finished his course at the industrial school at the age of 16 would not, in your opinion, be too old to be apprenticed to a tailor ?

No.

28593. And

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28593. And it would be much better that he should be properly apprenticed to a tailor rather than be allowed to get himself taught, as he can, in a sweater's shop?

Much better; and in fact an employer would then rather take a youth, seeing that he had learned to sew, because the first 12 months the lad could simply do very common stitching, and he would have learned then what would have been the most difficult part for him to learn while he was an apprentice.

28594. Would tailors object to take boys from an industrial school; would they think their character was bad, and object to take them on that ground?

I cannot say; I should think not. I should not object to take a lad well-behaved into the shop to sew with me.

28595. If he had three or four years' good character from an industrial school you would not object yourself to take him?

Not at all; we do not object to apprentices.

28596. Lord *Clinton*.] Do you mean by an industrial school, and industrial school as defined in the Act of Parliament, or a technical school?

I mean an industrial school, where they send a bad lad whom they are desirous of reforming.

28597. Lord *Monkswell*.] Would your remarks apply equally to reformatory schools as well as industrial?

Just the same.

28598. You would not object to take a boy from a reformatory school if he had a good character?

I would not object to take a boy from a reformatory school if he had a good character.

28599. *Chairman*.] You say it is important for the boys and men themselves that they should be taught more than simply to sew in prisons and reformatory establishments?

Certainly. In some of our places in the neighbourhood of Sheffield we have large truant schools where youths are sent from various parts of the country. A tailor is employed to teach the lads to sew; they are simply sewing on their own clothing, the coarsest stuff imaginable; and after they have learned to sew they require to be instructed further in the art of making a garment, which could not be taught them in the school.

28600. Do you consider that the Factory Acts, as they are at present, are sufficient?

No.

28601. What do you think should be done to amend them?

I think that the Factory Act should be amended by making it compulsory for all workshops to be registered, and likewise that every person should give a notice to a factory inspector whether he intended to conduct his shop as a shop where only males were employed or where females and young persons were employed; I think it should be compulsory on him to do so; and likewise I think that a person should not have the power, as now, to work overtime without giving a notice before he does the work overtime. In our trade a man is allowed to work 58 days a-year extra time; according to the Factory and Workshop Act he is allowed to work two hours extra per day, 58 days in the year; but he can commit the offence, and then send notice and be exempted.

28602. How do you mean?

The factory inspector goes into a shop after eight o'clock at night, and the factory inspector will say, "You have got these ladies after hours," and the person keeping them employed says, "Oh, but I intend to send the permit asking for an extension of time." He has already committed the offence; I hold that he should send a notice to the factory inspector before doing it, saying that he wants to work overtime.

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28603. That the notice should be sent before instead of after?

Yes, before instead of after.

28604. You mean, I presume, that it frequently happens that no notice is sent unless the inspector happens to call.

Yes.

28605. That is what you wish to avoid?

Yes; that we wish to avoid. And I think there should be the compulsory registration of every place where work is carried on.

28606. Those are the only suggestions you have to make with regard to the Factory Act?

Those are the only suggestions I have to make with regard to the Factory Act.

28607. What is the slack time in the trade you work at yourself?

The slackest time we experience is from January to about the middle of April; and then, of course, much depends on the seasons, but generally from August to October.

28608. How many hours a week do you suppose a good skilled man in your line of business would work on an average throughout the year?

I could not tell that. I told you a short time ago the average hours that I worked myself lately. I have a copy of my wages here for the last 12 months in the shop where I work, and the average of my earnings is 1 *l.* 1 *s.* 7 *d.* per week.

28609. But you do not know how many hours a week?

Some weeks it would not be more than 10 hours in the week, and others it might be 60 hours in the week.

28610. The average you do not know?

The average hours per week I could not say, because no record is kept of them. I keep a record of the wages, but the time I could not compute. When there is an extra pressure of work, of course we have to work to make up for the short time that we experience, to put ourselves right.

28611. With regard to these clothes that are made up by sweaters, do they ever go through the hands of more than one sweater?

No.

28612. Is there anything further you would like to say to the Committee?

I would like to say this; that in an establishment I have named by name, which you said it was rather objectionable, I should do. I have seen trousers come from a factory with the waist lining not fastened up at the top, but the buttons put on bearing the name of that firm, to show to the public that they were made there; and a label inside the coat, with the name of the firm on, put on by women who had been doing nothing else the week through, but sewing those on; some with a silk label inside that would give the name of the firm as being made there. They were not made there at all; they were made in factories and sent there.

28613. This firm you are speaking of has no manufactory at all?

Has no workshops at all; the workshops are simply closed up; they were the finest I have seen.

28614. And you object to a firm under those circumstances putting their name on the garment?

Yes.

28615. Because you think the customers imagine the work is made on the premises?

Yes; and in all the contract work I think that the supervision of a practical man to inspect it would be of great advantage to those that issue the contracts; because

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because we men in shops have made garments and been paid the proper price for them, and those garments have been sent in to the corporation or to the governing body, such as the railway directors and that like; and there have been good trimmings all throughout, good canvas and linen, and stayings, and that like, to make the garments strong, so that they would wear and stand the rough wear that those men have to subject them to; and then, after that order is secured, an inferior material is put inside; the lining, no doubt, is the same, and the outside is the same as the contract order, but then the inside is filled up with very different stuff.

28616. You mean that they were not according to the sample?

Not according to the sample; it is covered up and cannot be seen, and a practical man would look inside it to see that it was right; he would rip it in various parts where he knew that the staying, and that like, should be put in to make the garment secure.

28617. In fact, you say that the governing body, such as the railway directors or the municipal authorities, do not get the article that they bargain for?

They do not.

28618. And that they ought to look after their own interests better?

The sample is made by a better class of workman, as a rule.

28619. Is there anything else you wish to tell the Committee?

I do not know of anything else.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. HERBERT FREEMAN, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

28620. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your trade?

A tailor.

28621. Do you work on your own premises; at your own place?

Yes, on my own premises.

28622. Do you employ any labour?

Female labour; four women and one boy.

28623. And what part of the work do you do yourself?

The chief part of it is pressing, and looking after the work to see that it is done in a proper manner.

28624. Do you do all the pressing yourself?

Yes.

28625. And you get your work, I suppose, from different firms in the City?

Yes.

28626. Ready cut out?

Yes, it is cut out on their premises.

28627. What class of work is it?

Trousers.

28628. All trousers?

All trousers.

28629. A good class of trousers in the order trade; the bespoke trade?

Yes, all bespoke.

28630. Can you tell the Committee what you get for the trousers?

Three shillings to four shillings per pair, and all extras paid for, such as hip pockets, or strap and buckle, any extras that the customers requires in them.

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[*Continued.*

28631. What do you have to do for that ; you have to find the shop ?

Find the shop and all expenses attending it, and pay the wages to the hands for their work.

28632. And the thread and so on ?

No ; they find the thread, silk, and twist.

28633. The thread is found for you ?

Yes ; all thread, and silk ; and twist is found for me by the firm that I work for.

28634. Is that the general custom in Sheffield ?

It is, as a rule, I believe ; it is in the case of all the firms that I have worked for.

28635. And you employ four women, you say ; what do they do ?

They generally sew. One machines, and the other three button-hole and baste, and fell, and finish the work.

28636. What does the boy do ?

He runs errands.

28637. How do you pay these hands ?

One has 14 s. per week.

28638. You pay then by the week ?

Yes ; and another has 10 s., another 9 s., and another 7 s., and the boy 3 s.

28639. How many hours a week do they work ?

From half-past eight to half-past seven ; four o'clock one day a week.

28640. Saturday till four ?

Well, it is Monday, as a rule, with me.

28641. That is 11 hours a day ?

But there is an hour and a-half off for meals.

28642. And one day you close at four o'clock ?

Yes.

28643. Are you working those hours all through the year ?

I have done this last year.

28644. So that your hands can earn the wages you mentioned all the year round, can they ?

They might not earn it all the year ; but in the case of the ones that average 14 s. and 13 s., there would be a shilling less in each ; that would be their average the year round.

28645. Take a shilling off, and you get a fair average ?

Yes, that would be a fair average.

28646. Do you take any apprentices or learners ?

When I took on a learner, a girl, I paid her 2 s. 6 d. a week for the first six months, and the remaining six months 5 s. a week, and then she advances as she gets along.

28647. You always have one learner ?

It is the first one I have had.

28648. She did not work for nothing at all at any time ?

No, she did not.

28649. Are you ever visited by the factory inspectors ?

Yes, I have frequently been visited by them, both Captain Smith and Mr. Davis.

28650. And the sanitary inspector ?

No, I have never seen him ; I fancy that is included, that the factory inspector can understand the sanitary part.

28651. Do

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[Continued.]

28651. Do you know anything of the outworkers in Sheffield?

Nothing; there is only one that I know a little bit about, that is all. I do not mix up with tailors much.

28652. Do you send any of your work to these workers?

None whatever.

28653. Do you know whether much of the work is done by outworkers in Sheffield?

Yes, I believe a great portion of it is, and I believe they cannot trust the men in the shops, as a rule; they are not steady; they will not attend to the work; when they know there is plenty of work they will not attend to it. That has been my experience when I was in shops.

28654. Do these outworkers work very long hours, do you know?

I do not know. I know I do not myself, only according to the pressure of the work; I might work an extra hour or two at odd times.

28655. You could not work extra hours without breaking the law, could you?

I could myself, but not my hands.

28656. But I refer to what have been called outworkers. By an outworker I mean a man working in his own rooms and employing no labour at all?

They are not under the Factory Act; they do not come within the meaning of the Act; and I think they should do.

28657. You think they should do?

Yes, I do.

28658. Why?

Because if there was any epidemic in the house they might keep it secret, so that the employers would not know, and they might fetch the work and it might get contagious through that.

28656. Lord *Monkswell*.] How large is your room?

I could not say the size of it, but it is a fair-sized room and very lofty, and a good light.

28656. You say it has never been visited by the sanitary inspector, so that you do not know what he thinks of it?

No.

28661. How long have these four women been with you?

One has been with me over three years; this is her fourth year; and the others have been with me three years, except the young one; she has been with me going on now 18 months, and she is having 7 s. at the present time; she started with 2 s. 6 d.

28662. And the other two are getting what?

One is getting now 14 s., and the other 10 s.

28663. Should you say that 10 s. a week was an average wage for women that had been with you three years?

I should say that it is; some can do the work better than others.

28664. How old are these women?

One is 24.

28665. Is not 21 rather late to begin with?

She had been in the tailoring before.

28666. So that one of these women at all events is only earning 10 s. a week who has been in the trade a long time?

No; that one started with me; but she had been with some one else about six months previous to coming to me, the one that has 10 s.

28667. She did not begin tailoring till over 20 years of age?

I do not believe she did.

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28668. It has been stated that it is a common thing for middlemen to make 30 or 40 per cent. profit; should you say that it is so from your experience?

No, I do not believe it is so; at least I do not. I can only answer for myself.

28669. *Chairman.*] Is there anything else you wish to say?

I should like to say that I think there are various causes for men taking the work out of shops. What I mean is this: a man works for a shop, and he prefers to work either at home or to have a workshop; and the various causes simply are, because I believe they do not like to associate with men of drinking habits; because a man might be a steady man, and if he does not do exactly as another man wants him, or there might be two or three in a shop (and I know it is so in a shop, I have experienced it myself), and simply because you do not do as they want you are subject to annoyance; and so for that reason I preferred to get outside, and work outside myself.

28670. Would you say that the men who work in their own homes are superior to the men, more respectable than the men, who work in shops?

Yes, I believe they are far more respectable than what the so-called first-class men are, both in respectability, and in skilled work as well.

28671. And that they prefer to work in their own homes for the reason you have mentioned?

I believe it is so.

28672. And not because they are able to work longer hours in their own homes?

No, I do not believe it is so.

28673. *Earl of Derby.*] Do you think that a man, if he prefers the company of his own family to that of a number of fellow-workmen, ought to be left free to work in his own house?

Yes, I think so; but that ought to be under subjection to the Factory and Workshop Act.

28674. But how could his hours be under the Act?

I believe the Act prescribes that it should be a kind of a domestic factory, or something of that sort (as I understand it), so that it could be visited, even as it stands at the present time.

28675. Do you mean that if a man takes home work to do in the house where he lives, that house not being a workshop, nor any other man being employed in it, there is any power of putting a restraint upon him as to the number of hours which he works?

No; but I believe it could be visited under the Workshop Act as a kind of domestic factory, as the Act now provides for that; but I do not think it is so done.

28676. But suppose that it were so, and that there were a legal power of controlling the number of hours worked, how would it be possible for any inspector to go round to every man's house and know when he began work and when he left off?

I do not think it could be done.

28677. Practically, then, that is a proposal that would not work?

No.

28678. *Chairman.*] But I would like to understand a little more about that; because, first of all, you say these shops where members of the same family only are working, ought to be registered, and put under the regulations of the Factory and Workshops Act; and then again you say it would be no use doing so?

It would be a difficult thing to get at, I will admit that, to know when they begin work, and when they do not. But it might be the same in my case. Of course, if I keep on after 10 o'clock at night, that is, allowing us what they allow, 40 odd times in the year, if I keep them up to 10 o'clock the Act

prescribes

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prescribes for that; but suppose I kept them 50 times in the year, I am liable to the inspector coming to me, just the same as it would be if a private man's home were under the Factory and Workshops Act by the same rule.

28679. You think the Act would be just as effective in the case of the family workshop as in your own case?

Yes, I believe it would. It is simply getting to know where they are, where the work is done.

28680. Is there anything else you would like to say?

No, I no not think I can say any more.

28681. You have spoken about the unsteady habits of the men working in the shops; do you think that the rising generation are steadier than the former generations; we had it suggested in evidence that they are very much improving?

Yes, I believe they are, as far as my observation has gone.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ABRAHAM OSOSKI, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

28682. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?

A tailor.

28683. In Sheffield?

Yes.

28684. Have you got a workshop?

Yes.

28684.* How many hands?

I employ about 16.

28685. How many men among them?

Two men and myself.

28686. What do you do?

I do the fitting up, and the pressing, and some of the hand work if there are particular jobs.

28687. And what are the other men doing; pressers also?

They press and fit up; do anything.

28688. How long have you had this shop in Sheffield?

About 17 years.

28689. Did you work as a journeyman tailor before?

Not in Sheffield.

28690. In other towns?

I have worked in London some years back.

28691. Did you learn your trade in England?

Yes.

28692. In London?

Yes.

28693. Do you consider yourself a thorough practical tailor?

Yes, I do.

28694. Capable of making anything?

Yes.

28695. And you have 13 females whom you employ?

Yes.

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[Continued]

28696. How do you pay them ; by the week ?
Yes.

28697. Can you give us their wages ?
One woman gets a sovereign a week, the others get 12s., 13s., 10s., 8s., 9s., 5s., 4s. ; and 3s. 6d. one gets.

28698. What do you pay your learners ?
That is a learner who gets 3s. 6d.

28699. Do you mean that you pay no learner less than 3s. 6d. ?
No.

28700. What kind of an arrangement do you make with your learners ?
I do not make any arrangement with her particularly. I have got one girl working for me ; she has been working for me five or six weeks in the shop, and she is getting 5s. a week.

28701. Do they ever come to you for nothing ?
No.

28702. What do they generally start at ?
Sometimes 2s. 6d.

28703. Have you ever paid less than 2s. 6d.
Yes, I have.

28704. What have you paid, 1s. 6d. ?
Yes.

28705. Are you paying any 1s. 6d. now ?
No.

28706. How many learners have you got altogether ?
I have got three ; one gets 5s., one gets 4s., one gets 3s. 6d.

28707. Since what time have you paid them those wages ?
The one that gets 5s. has been having this last three weeks 5s. ; she has been about seven weeks in the shop.

28708. And the others ?
The one that is getting 3s. 6d. has been about 10 weeks in the shop.

28709. How long has she been getting 3s. 6d. ?
Two months, as near as I could guess.

28710. And the other one ?
Four shillings ; she has been about three months in the shop ; the same, the two sisters.

28711. And how long has she been earning that ?
Nine or ten weeks, as near as I could guess.

28712. She has been three months in the shop, and for 10 weeks she has been earning 4s. ?

Yes ; and this one that is getting 5s. a week has only been about seven weeks in the shop, but she is a sharp girl and picked it up quickly, and she gets a bigger wage. She is an older girl, and has got more sense, and sticks to the work.

28713. You get work, I suppose, from various firms ?
Yes.

28714. At so much a garment ?
Yes.

28715. What do you make, trousers ?
Yes.

28716. What do you get for these trousers ?
I make them at all prices ; it all depends upon the quality of the stuff.

28717. What

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28717. What would they vary from?

They vary from 2*s.* up to 4*s.* 6*d.*

28718. Are you pretty busy all the year round?

No, not all the year round.

28719. What do you suppose you would average a-week all the year round?

I should average about four days a-week all the year round, as near as I could guess.

28720. I suppose you work the usual hours?

Yes.

28721. And pay your hands by the week?

Yes; so much a-week.

28722. What do you call a half-day; what would be a half-day?

We work from eight till eight, and we have an hour and a half for meals. To come at eight in the morning, and go home at one o'clock, would be a half-day.

28723. Suppose you are short of work, and are not working full time, how do you pay your hands then?

I take so much off.

28724. And you pay them so much an hour?

So much for a half-day. If they work five and a half days, I stop them half-a-day.

28725. What is half-a-day; how many hours?

Five hours; I could not tell exactly to a quarter of an hour; they might work a quarter of an hour less.

28726. Do you generally work on Mondays?

Yes, when we are busy.

28727. For how many months in the year do you suppose you will be working on Mondays a full day's work?

For six months.

28728. And Tuesdays?

When we start on Monday we generally go the week through.

28729. If you do not start on Monday, would you start on Tuesday?

If the work is there, yes.

28730. But how many months in the year do you suppose you are not working Monday or Tuesday?

I could not tell you exactly, because when the work comes in you start, and when it stops you have to give over; if no more comes in on Monday night we have to give over on Tuesday morning.

28731. How do you manage with your hands if they come to you and find that there is nothing to do?

They have to go back.

28732. Do they wait and see?

Yes.

28733. They might be waiting all day and get nothing?

They never do that.

28734. You find out, I suppose, that there will be nothing?

Yes.

28735. Do you provide your own machine and thread, and so on?

My own workshop and machine?

28736. And the thread?

No, the shop finds all the thread and silk and twist; if they do not find it, they pay extra for that.

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[*Continued.*]

28737. Were you born in this country; are you a native?
I came when I was 10 years old to this country.

28738. Lord *Clinton*.] When your work is slack for a time, do your hands get work anywhere else?

No; I do not think they could get it anywhere else; they are slack all over when we are slack.

28739. Do they do any work at home?
They might help their parents.

28740. But I mean this tailoring work?
No.

28741. And they do not take any of your work home?
No.

28742. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] How is it the work does not come in on Monday and Tuesday?

Because it is all order trade; they do not make any stock-work up; it is all sent away to London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and all those places, and if there are no orders come in of course they do not get work.

28743. Do not orders come in at the end of the week providing work at the beginning of the next week?

No, they do not come in like that.

28744. Lord *Monkswell*.] Is your place ever inspected?
Yes, it has been inspected by Captain Smith and Mr. Davis.

28745. By the factory and by the sanitary inspector?
No, I have not seen any sanitary inspector; I have had some town councillors.

28746. What made them come?

Because they have been making some talk about orders that were not fit to be made in certain places, and they alluded more to my place, and that was the reason I invited the councillors to come up, and anybody who liked, to see the place.

28747. Did you do anything to your place before they came up, or was it in exactly the same state it was before?

In exactly the same state it was before.

28748. And when they saw it they made no complaints?
No.

28749. *Chairman*.] You do all your work in your own place, and never put any out?
No.

28750. Have you any opinion as to whether those places where work is carried on only by members of one family, ought to be put under the Factory Act or not?

I do think they ought not to work in a house at all?

28751. Why?

If there is any fever in the house, or small-pox, when they work in the house, even if he is an honest man, the clothes will be still in the house in which he is working, and they may be infected with the disease.

28752. You think that for sanitary reasons work ought all to be carried on in workshops?

Yes, or else make it on the premises of the shopkeeper.

28753. Do you work for any firms who make nothing themselves at all?
Yes, I work for some of them.

28754. Is that a common thing in Sheffield?
In some places it is.

28755. In

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28755. In that case, the firms who call themselves tailors would be really only acting as agents to sell their goods?

No; they keep cutters.

28756. They do the cutting?

Yes, and have the cloth.

28757. And take the orders, and take the measures?

Yes, cut it out, and trim it, and give it out to make.

28758. Have you ever worked on ready-made clothing?

Yes.

28759. Do you know at all why it is that that branch of the trade appears to have left Sheffield?

Because they can make them for less price in the other towns.

28760. But why is that, do you know?

They make them up in great quantities; they can employ a number of hands, two or three thousand hands, in the place, both out-doors and in-doors.

28761. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?

No, I do not know that I have anything to say; only, I think that they ought to stop shopkeepers giving work out direct to females.

28762. Do you mean vests?

Anything.

28763. Why?

Because when they give anything out to females they generally give them a less price than they give a man. If they gave the work direct to a man, the female could come and work for the man and get a bigger price than the shop-keeper will give her direct, and the man still earn something himself.

28764. You mean that you would object to a man giving work out to a woman working in her own dwelling-room, but you would not object to his giving it out to you, and your employing the woman in your shop?

No.

28765. Because, as I understood you to say, the woman working for you would get more than the woman working in her own room would get?

Yes.

28766. I do not quite understand why that would be the case?

Because they generally get a female for a shilling less for a garment than what they give a man in 19 cases out of 20.

28767. Earl of Derby.] Do you think that it is a justification for Parliament interfering, that certain women, such as you speak of, are getting lower wages than they would get under other conditions?

Yes.

28768. You think that Parliament ought to interfere to keep wages from falling below a certain point?

Yes, if they could.

28769. "If they could;" is not that rather an important condition?

I suppose it is.

28770. Chairman.] Is there anything else you wish to say?

No, I have nothing else to say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. WILLIAM LEGGATT is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

28771. Chairman.] WHAT is your business?

I am a foreman tailor.

(11.)

I I 2

28772. Have

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28772. Have you been in the tailoring trade all your life ?
All my life.

28773. Worked as a journeyman, I suppose ?
Yes.

28774. In Sheffield ?
No, not as a journeyman in Sheffield; in London.

28775. What do you mean exactly by a "foreman tailor?"

A foreman tailor is a man who has learned the practical part of the trade, and after he has properly learned it, has gone through a course of systematic cutting, and is competent to cut as well as to make, and is placed in the position that he drafts the cloth out; cuts the cloth to fit the customer. Of course, he gives out the work, as a rule, to the men. I might say that, of course, I represent the masters as well as the foremen, the masters' association, and likewise the national federation. We have a national federation of the foremen tailors and master tailors' societies throughout the United Kingdom.

28776. And is it a branch of that that you belong to at Sheffield ?
The Sheffield association is associated with it.

28777. What do you call the association at Sheffield ?
The association is the masters and foremen association.

28778. Are you the secretary ?
I am the secretary of both associations.

28779. How long have you held that position ?
The national federation has only been formed a matter of two years, but the association was formed probably two years before that; it is a recent thing, the national association; it is an amalgamation of the existing societies in the different towns, the large towns. I could give you the towns if you wish it.

28780. Do most of the master tailors in Sheffield belong to the association ?
Yes, all the leading masters belong to it.

28781. Would a man, for instance, who employed three or four hands, be admitted; one of these men, I mean, that have been called sweaters ?
By no means.

28782. How do you define a master tailor, as far as admitting him to the association is concerned ?

A master tailor, in the sense that we should recognise a master tailor, is an established man in business, a man in trade. We have no certain specified amount of value or anything of that kind, but he must be a tradesman in the town, a man in business, or a foreman.

28783. Is it necessary that he should make up anything on his own premises ?

No, there is no restriction as regards that.

28784. It is quite possible that a master tailor might not make anything up on his own premises ?

Quite so.

28785. And you would still call him a master tailor ?
Quite so.

28786. Although he did no tailoring ?

Well, scarcely; a master tailor is a man who may employ cutters and may do nothing himself; the cutter gives the work out, and in many cases, indeed in most cases, the master does nothing at all of that himself; he employs cutters who do that part of the work.

28787. And all the sewing is done off the premises altogether ?
Not necessarily.

28788. But it is in some cases ?
It is in some cases.

28789. And

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28789. And yet you would call such a man a master tailor ?
Such a man, undoubtedly, is a master tailor.

28790. How long have you been foreman ?
I have been foreman now, roughly speaking, I should say 15 or 16 years.

28791. You would be employed, I presume, entirely in the bespoke trade ?
Entirely in the bespoke trade.

28792. Is the sewing done on the premises of the firm you are now working for ?

A great proportion of it is ; we have a system throughout the town of outworking which has already been referred to.

28793. I should like to know about that ?

As a master, speaking from the master's standpoint, I wish emphatically to point out that outworking is not sweating.

28794. The only difference, I should imagine, between outworking and inworking would be, in your opinion, that in the one case the man works on the premises of his employer, and in the other case he works in his own room ?

Exactly so ; the members of the workmen's societies foster the mistake by insisting that all the work should be done on the premises, and that all that work outside are sweaters. This, as masters and foremen, we emphatically deny ; they are not sweaters.

28795. Which do you consider preferable, that the work should be done on the premises or done by the outworkers ; or do you think it makes any difference one way or the other ?

It makes a very great deal of difference, and yet it is one of those things very difficult to give a solution to. The reason is in the first place (and I have found it very much so in my own case) that the best men (I speak of the character and respectability of the men) do not like to work in the shops, for the simple reason that workmen are, as a rule, intemperate, improvident, and the language is anything but refined and gentlemanly, and men of a high sensibility cannot put up with that kind of thing. A great many of the best men of the town have left the shops simply on those conditions ; they have left them because they could not put up with the bad language and intemperate habits of their fellows and so forth, and they have worked outside. We have given them work and we find in many cases that the work is equally as well done, that it is brought in to the time, that the men are always attentive to their duties, and they do as high a class of work as the others. But at the same time I must give my preference to the indoor workmen if we could get workmen to work in a temperate way, that is to say, if they would keep temperate and continue at their business without these evils that I have been speaking about.

28796. Are you going to tell us why you prefer the indoor work ?

The workshops are regular plague spots ; I consider them nothing more nor less, to the moral susceptibilities of the boys. I consider that it would be a disgrace for me, as a father, to put my child into an ordinary tailor's workshop from the evil conversation and from the bad practices that are carried on there with regard to drinking and that kind of thing. I found it so in our own workshop only last week. With regard to the work done in the workshops, if it is done in the workshops under proper supervision, and by a good moral class of men, it is far superior to the work done outside, simply because the conglomeration of different ideas, the getting together of men from different towns and different centres, brings ideas that are new, and a man gets a better idea of style, he is able to impart it to others, and so the general idea is improved ; there is an elevation. But if the men work outside, they get into a stunted way ; they work from their own standpoint, and have their own ideas, and consequently there is not that variety which otherwise would take place.

28797. On all grounds, except on moral grounds, you would prefer the indoor work ?

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We prefer the indoor work if we can get the quality of workmen; I am speaking of the quality of skill of the workman, and also of his moral qualities as a temperate man. The idea of the men undoubtedly is to drive all the outworkers into the shops to force up the wages. That is a very small matter to us as masters; we are anxious that the men should improve their position morally, and in point of skill as well, and we are willing to pay the price, providing we can get the right men.

28798. How do you pay the outworkers?

We pay the outworkers in many cases the same prices as we pay the inworkers.

28799. You pay them so much a garment, I suppose?

They are all on piece work.

28800. You pay all your hands inside and out the same way?

All the same way, except the machinist who does the machinery for them, and she is paid so much for the week; they have a certain price specified for a coat, or waistcoat, or trousers.

28801. What rate per hour do you base your prices inside upon?

We have a town log; we base our prices on about 5 *d.* an hour, but it is rather difficult to reckon it up, it is so complicated.

28802. And do you base the prices that you pay outside on the same rate per hour?

On the same rate, though in some cases we have a lower rate of wages on account of its being lower class work; and there are cases in which it is impossible to give the highest price for a suit of clothes. For instance, a gentleman wishes a suit for knocking about, a very cheap suit, and we cannot pay the highest price. We say to a man, "Would you be willing to make this at such-and-such a price? It is only a cheap suit; it is not wanted to be very elaborate in its get up and so forth"; if he will make them at such a price as will suit us and as will suit the customer, he agrees to do it, and it is satisfactory all round. But the men in the workshop will not do that; consequently we have occasionally to give work outside to the outworkers.

28803. I understand that the outworkers work at a lower rate in so far that they work at a cheaper class of goods; but when they work at the same class of goods they are paid at the same rate, as near as possible, as the inworkers?

Yes.

28804. But they would have to find the room, the machine, and the thread, would they not?

No; all the trimmings, the silk and twist and that kind of thing are found for the outworkers.

28805. They find only the room and the machine?

They find only the room. There is not, or should not be, very much machining done in that class of work.

28806. It has been suggested to us that one reason why the men prefer working outside is that in their own homes they can work as long as they please, getting the women of their own families to help them, and that though they do not get paid the same rate as inworkers they can earn more wages; is that so or not?

That is so; and that brings me to this point. There is something else. The men in the shops will only work just so long as it suits them; and on Mondays very often and Tuesdays, I am sorry to say it will even run to Wednesdays, they will not show up to work, and consequently all the work is driven to the end of the week, and we are compelled to give the work outside to get it made. In my opinion, the men have been more at fault in this matter than anybody else. I consider that the outworking of the town has been caused more by the intemperance of the men and their methods in the shops, than anything else. The employers have been compelled in our town especially and in most of the other large cities throughout the country, to give the work out simply because
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the men in the shops will not come to their work on the Mondays and start fair for the week.

28807. Have you always plenty of work in your hands on Mondays and Tuesdays?

Pretty well; except in some very slack seasons when we divide the work out as equally as possible.

28808. Does any of your work go to men who may be, or have been described as sweaters, small masters?

Well, sweating in Sheffield is a very small matter. Possibly if we take the workmen's idea our work does go to sweaters, because we give it to out-workers.

28809. I do not mean a man working in his home and employing no labour; I am referring to men who employ hired labour?

Yes, I think so.

28810. Some of your work does go to them?

Some of our work does, especially the cheaper work.

28811. Do you consider that there is anything objectionable in that system at all?

I think that in the case of sweaters it is a very objectionable system, and none of our masters approve of it, and they are entirely opposed to it; but we are often compelled, even against our own consciences, to give them work, on account of the intemperance and the bad habits of our workmen; we are simply driven to it.

28812. These inferior goods that you spoke of, are they still bespoke goods or ready-made?

Entirely bespoke goods; I am only speaking of bespoke goods now. There is a shop in our town, a very good shop, characterised by the men's society as one of the best shops, and it is gradually losing its work; it is gradually losing its status simply because the men decline to make any cheap work, that is to say any common things, at a lower price; and there is another establishment within probably half-a-dozen doors, who are taking a great deal of the work away. But here is the anomaly. These men are allowed by the society to work for this shop, and this shop must not give them any lower price, but they are allowed to go and work for this other shop at half the price, and yet they are admitted into the society, and are allowed to do that; but immediately a man in the best shop takes a lower price the other men turn out on strike. This is ruining this particular trade.

28813. Do you mean that the shops are divided, as it were, into classes?

Undoubtedly.

28814. And that a certain class of shop is expected to pay a certain class of wage?

Yes.

28815. And in another house doing another class of trade the men are permitted to accept a lower wage?

Yes.

28816. And that you think is a mistake on their part?

No, I do not think it is a mistake, except in so far as it is arbitrary on the part of the workmen to insist that one shop shall pay only one price, and that they should allow the same men to go to work for this cheaper shop.

28817. You think they are making a mistake in doing that?

Undoubtedly; because they are driving work from this employer. A gentleman is going off for an expedition, he wants a cheap ordinary suit, and the employer says, "I cannot take the order for it excepting we charge you so much, because our men insist upon a certain price, and I have to pay the price;" but he can go next door and he can get this suit much cheaper, and he

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is very well suited probably with the cheap suit, and he may ultimately go there for other things.

28818. What you object to is the men drawing a distinction between the one shop and the other shop, and not drawing the distinction between the one class of goods and the other class of goods?

No, I do not say that; my objection is that the men should be so arbitrary in imposing upon the men who work in the best shop that they shall not take a lower price for a cheap article. They should allow them to do that so that the shop should be able to retain customers.

28819. Then it is exactly what I said. You do not object to the men making the distinction between one class of goods and another class of goods?

No.

28820. But you object to their making a distinction between one firm and another?

Precisely. I think myself that the system of piecework, which is almost universal in the trade, acts unfavourably towards the skilled workman.

28821. Why so?

In this way. Tweed coats and home-spun garments and things of that kind can be more rapidly made with less skill; and a man can make more money at that class of work than our very best workmen who make the highest class garments; he can get through more work, and consequently it counts up more at the end of the week and consequently at the end of the week the best workman has less to draw than a middle-class workman. It puts a premium upon mediocrity I think.

28822. You say that this system of paying by piecework is universal. We have had it in evidence that in these so-called sweaters' places the hands, the operatives, are paid by the week; that is so, is it not?

That is quite correct. I think it is much more satisfactory in other businesses, such as engineers and other trades; a man goes in and works for certain hours in the day, and he is paid a stipulated wage; but in our business a man can go in at 10 o'clock in the morning and he can get nearly two days' work in a day by working late at night, and then if he is a quick workman of course he gets more; but at the same time it is objectionable.

28823. Are the prices about the same as they were, say, 10 years ago?

I do not think they have materially altered.

28824. And the wages about the same, the prices of labour, and the prices of the goods?

I think the goods, if anything, possibly are a little cheaper; but in the higher class goods there is very little difference from what they were.

28825. Do you know whether there is much foreign labour in the trade?

There is not very much in Sheffield. There is a great deal in other towns of course, but in Sheffield there is not very much. I think that as a condition of membership in a trade society there should be some guarantee that the men are competent workmen.

28826. With regard to what has been said about youths being only taught sewing in the industrial schools and prisons, and not proper tailoring, do you think it is correct to say that that has a bad effect upon the trade from the workmen's point of view?

Undoubtedly; I think that is one of the greatest curses of our trade at the present time.

28827. The quantity of unskilled labour you mean?

The quantity of unskilled labour that is turned out from those institutions; I think it is a standing disgrace to our country that christian men should rear up splendid edifices, spend money, and then pretend to educate boys, and turn them into the world poor unskilled, untutored boys. As they come to me, it is really piteous to see these boys coming and asking for work, and they

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have no more idea of tailoring than a sweeper in the streets; they have been sewing on a certain class of work, but they are no use at all as tailors; they are turned out from these institutions as tailors, and they know nothing whatever about tailoring. I think it is a disgrace. I can show you a few advertisements which I have here; and I think this gives us the ground for this thing. The wages they pay the instructors in these places are something abominable. They advertise for men to teach the boys the trade, and they offer to give a man a very low wage indeed; they subject him to a livery, and they treat him like an ordinary porter. This man has to serve seven years at his trade to learn his trade, and in some cases he is supposed to be a scientific cutter, and they offer him a miserable pittance of something like 32 *l.* per year. It is simply absurd to expect any man of any education, or of any practical ability, to be able to work for any such price as that when we have workmen that can make at least 100 *l.* a year, if they are good men, in good shops; I am speaking, of course, of the best class.

28828. I suppose his board and lodging would be included?

His board and lodging would be included in that case. Here is an advertisement, taken at random: "Wanted, for the [] Training School, a tailor, aged from 25 to 45, to teach boys tailoring and to assist the superintendent generally in the management of the boys out of school hours; he must be single, or a widower without encumbrance; salary, 32 *l.* per annum, with officer's rations, lodging and washing"; and then follows the application, and so forth. This would amount, probably, to about 69 *l.* a year.

28829. And do you think that the reason why the boys are not sufficiently or properly taught is the inefficiency of the men who are engaged to teach them?

Undoubtedly. I think, indeed, that they are the boys that fill the sweaters' dens. I think that there are two main causes that make the sweaters possible; and those are, the intemperance of the better-class workmen, and the inefficiency of the others; and the inefficiency of the others arises from this mode of training them. I consider these training schools are nothing more nor less than a mistake; they are a decoy; they are not what they profess to be.

28830. You mean that, in regard to their pretending that the boys are taught a trade, it is not true?

It is not true; they are not taught the trade.

28831. As to the system of taking on learners, girls, do you think that answers well?

I think, so far as girls are concerned, it is not advisable, as a rule, to employ women at the trade; but I have no objection to female labour at all myself, and I do not think our masters have. The objection, of course, is, to take girls to work with the expectation that after a certain period they will be able to earn their own living, and then turn them adrift to do as best they can.

28832. That is the point I want to get from you, whether you think the system has that tendency?

Undoubtedly it has; it is a pernicious system, and it is a system that we have invariably denounced.

28833. You think that in the case of females also, they ought to be properly taught?

They ought to be properly taught; and there ought to be some specification, some agreement, by which there would be some guarantee that they are properly taught, in the same way as there should be with the men.

28834. Should I be correct in saying that, in your opinion, the result of the present condition of things is to create a large quantity of unskilled labour, both male and female, or partially skilled labour?

Undoubtedly it is so; partially skilled labour.

28835. And that you think is injurious to the interest of the trade, working people and all?

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It is injurious to the interests of the trade, because we have in the labour market such an influx of unskilled labour, and also such an influx of unskilled labour from abroad, that the wages of the better class are reduced thereby; they are bound to be reduced.

28836. When you speak of unskilled labour from abroad, you are not alluding to Sheffield?

Not to Sheffield so much; but I am speaking generally.

28837. But does the unskilled labour from abroad affect Sheffield at all?
Not very much; a few come over from Hull, but not to a great extent.

28838. The female work is to a great extent confined to vests, is it not?

It is, in the bespoke trade; but, as you know, there are certain men who make trousers and employ females to do the felling of the waists and the felling of the different parts of the garment, and the man himself does the pressing. You had a case this morning in which a man employs about 16 women, or rather less. These women do the felling, and the men do the pressing.

28839. That is a natural division of labour, is it not?

It is.

28840. And objectionable?

Not at all objectionable. A woman cannot press a garment properly; she has not the power in the first place, and then there is a certain knack and a certain *modus operandi* that she has not altogether the control of, except in vests; they make very good vests.

28841. Why is it that vests are more suitable for women to make?

It is a light garment, and there is no sleeve; they can lay them on the board and press them without any trouble; a light small iron will answer the purpose.

28842. And these vests are made up to a great extent in these family workshops, I suppose, by women?

In family workshops, it is so; a great proportion of the vests that are made in Sheffield, and I think in every town in the country, more or less. Vest-making, from the men's point of view, is very much on the decline; they do not earn sufficient to warrant them making them; they are given out to females to make them, and they make very good vests indeed. I have several vest-makers working for me that will make a vest as good as a man, and we pay them the same price; consequently, there is no hardship to the females; they can work at home; and in cases where a woman loses her husband, I think it is a very good thing that they are able to support themselves and their families respectably on the proceeds of their labour.

28843. I take it generally from you that you think that on the whole it would be better if work could be carried on inside, in the shops and factories, provided that the moral tone of the men was sufficiently good?

Just so.

28844. But that the reason why so much work is done outside is, that the men prefer to work outside because they consider the surroundings objectionable in the factories or large shops?

Precisely so. The men themselves who work outside are far more respectable. There is an instance in our own town, the largest shop in the town; I am speaking of the highest class trade, the trade that makes the best work, the very highest class trade in our town. They have a workshop, and all the work is made inside, but if you were to stand at the corner of the street and see those men coming out from their work, you would notice that they are the most dilapidated broken down lot of men that you ever saw in your life. On the other hand, if you were to see the other men going into the other shops to get work, they are respectable men, very respectable, indeed you would think they were gentlemen; and their homes are equal to themselves; whereas, on the other hand, these men who work in the best shops and get the highest wages live

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live in the dirtiest hovels and live in the most abject poverty; I do not say all of them, but many of them, and the greater proportion of them are not nearly so well fed and so well kept as the out-workers.

28845. Earl of *Derby*.] Then where does all the money go to?

It goes to the publicans.

28846. *Chairman*.] Do you think the out-workers would consider it objectionable if their houses were registered, and they were placed under the Factory Act?

I do not think they would; I think that it would be a very wise thing indeed. I think that it would be a wise thing if all the out-workers were registered. I think it would be wise, if it were possible, that every person who took work out should have his place registered, and that the inspector should be able to go and examine that place and see if it is a fit place for the work to be done in. Cloth of course carries contagion, and, if there is any possibility of disease, it should be avoided on public grounds, independently of course of wages or anything of that kind.

28847. But would you limit their hours of work according to the Factory Act?

You cannot do that.

28848. I do not mean the men's work of course, but the work of the women and children, their wives and daughters, for instance?

I do not see how that could be done unless they had proper workshops.

28849. Why not?

It would be impossible for the inspector to come at any time at night, and find out whether these people were working or not.

28850. You would not give him power to visit them at all times?

I would give him power to visit them at all times; but it would be almost impossible to prevent their working at certain hours.

28851. Never mind for the moment whether it would be possible to enforce it or not; but do you think that they ought to be subject to the same regulations as people working in factories and workshops. I want to get at this. It is obvious that if an out-worker working in his own place can have females working for him longer hours than the Factory Acts allow; he must have an advantage over the men working in a shop or factory to which the Factory Acts apply. I want to know whether you think they should be put upon the same level?

Your Lordship makes a distinction. If an out-worker employs labour, then the inspector should have power to visit that place and make an examination; but if the person only does the labour himself that is another matter.

28852. Or his wife or daughter?

I am speaking of a woman who is an out-worker, making vests, for instance, or of the tailor himself. I think a daughter or a son, or whatever help he might have, ought to be regulated the same as any other help. If he employs his daughter in his business he should be subject to the regulations of the Factory Act undoubtedly.

28853. That is what I want to get at from you?

He should have a workshop, a properly-built workshop in his house, and he should not be allowed to take work out unless he had a proper place. It is very objectionable that a man should be able to take work and make it in the kitchen, or any other place where domestic affairs are going on; he should have a room set apart for that purpose; and in most cases the out-workers have this; in nearly all the cases which I have seen, in the case of all that work for me and nearly all that I have seen, that has been the case.

28854. Earl of *Derby*.] You said just now that the men wish to have all the work done in shops, and none in private houses, because that tended to drive up wages. I do not quite understand how it does tend to drive up wages?

It is in this way. The men, if it were possible (I am speaking of the men

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in the society) would compel every man to work inside in the shops on the employers' premises. They would then have a lever on the employers. They would say, "So-and-so is not paid enough for; we must have a higher price." They have a better method of communicating with the men and keeping them in touch with the centralization, with some form of centralization, trade organisation and so forth, and so force up the prices.

28855. The object would be to prevent any man from isolating himself and making his own bargain separately?

That is so.

28856. You have spoken several times over of the intemperance that prevails in these shops; do you suppose it is greater in the tailoring trade than in other trades?

I speak from experience in my own trade; I should only be able to speak from what I hear in other trades. I know it is exceedingly bad in our own trade, and I think it is really increasing rather than diminishing, especially in the shops. The out-workers, I think, are better men, more temperate men, and that is just exactly where the evil comes in, the evil I mean so far as the out-working is concerned. They are more steady; they are more reliable.

28857. I presume the fact that they are not willing to mix with the other men in the shops is one excuse of the out-workers being unpopular among the men?

That is so, although there is another anomaly. The Trade Organisation admits the out-workers to the society; but it is only for the one purpose, to keep up the prices; it is not that they have an interest in the out-workers.

28858. *Chairman.*] That is your opinion, I suppose?

That is my opinion.

28859. *Earl of Derby.*] Then you said a man ought not to be allowed to work at home unless he had a proper workshop; on what ground do you put that; on sanitary grounds?

On every ground; for the proper manipulation of the work, for the sanitary conveniences and all that pertains to that, I think he ought to have a room set apart as a workshop; and in most cases they have such.

28860. But might not that regulation, if it were enforced as such, act hardly upon men who might be very industrious and willing to work, but who might be too poor to provide what you consider proper accommodation?

I do not think so. It would not make a deal of difference. You see our trade is not a trade in which the tools and things of that description are very expensive. A workman with a thimble, a sleeve board, and an iron, has pretty well all his implements.

28861. But if a man with such tools as you have described is working in a poor lodging because he cannot afford a better one, would you interfere to prevent his working and say, "You have not a sufficiently good workshop; you must not work here;" do you think that would be fair upon the poorer class of workers?

I think it would be wise, because it would not be beneficial to the men themselves to allow them to work there. They could work in our own shops; we have shops with every convenience. There is one of our employers in the town who has gone to an enormous expense, fitted up workshops with all the conveniences, and yet the men will not work in the shops; the better class men will work outside, simply because they are free from influences of the sort I have mentioned, and they can make more money because they are not interfered with in their work.

28862. How do you mean "not interfered with in their own work"?

By men coming up and wanting them to drink, and badgering them for working when they might be off on the spree. They keep Saint Monday and Tuesday, and that kind of thing.

28863. I suppose

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28863. I suppose we may take it that in a workshop a man who works harder than his neighbour is apt to be an unpopular character?

Undoubtedly.

28864. And that is one reason why the most industrious men are apt to separate themselves from the rest?

Certainly.

28865. You spoke of the training of men to be tailors in industrial schools, and other public institutions; I did not quite understand whether your objection is to men being trained at all for that work, or to their being so badly trained as you say they are?

No, we have no objection to their training, but it is the inefficiency of the training that we object to; that is the point. A man cannot thoroughly understand his trade to accept such a paltry wage as is offered by these various advertisements such as you will see every week to men in positions of this kind. They offer them 20 *l.* and 30 *l.* a-year, and they are very paltry indeed; no man who is a thoroughly skilled workman would undertake such work.

28866. Then you think that those schools should pay more liberally?

Undoubtedly. They pay men for other purposes; they pay the master and they pay other men who do not have to undertake nearly the amount of labour and the amount of technical experience that the tailor has, and yet they treat the tailor, who should be a man of very high-class ability, in this paltry manner. There is one case, a man who is not only required to be a tailor but also a cutter. Now, a man who is a tailor, a practical tailor, and also a cutter, can command at the very least (I have never heard of a man, really experienced man, getting much less) 100 *l.* a-year, and the majority of them will get from that to 200 *l.*, 300 *l.*, and 400 *l.* a-year; but here is a man required to have all the scientific knowledge of a thoroughly trained cutter to accept a position in which he cannot get more than about 60 *l.* a-year or 70 *l.* a-year reckoning in his board and lodging. It is utterly impossible to expect a man to do it.

28867. *Chairman.*] How does a man learn to be a cutter; is he trained to it by a special apprenticeship to it?

After he has served his time on the board, we have schools of cutting; but, unfortunately, there is another difficulty; we have many opportunities for a man to learn cutting, but we have no method of a man learning the trade. You see it is a very simple thing for a man to take another to teach him the trade; but there is no guarantee that the boy has learned the trade, not the slightest.

28868. What I wanted to understand was by what process a man could rise to a position in which he could earn what you said some of them do, 300 *l.* a year?

In the first place he ought to be a thoroughly practical man, and having served his time at the trade and passed through the ordinary course of experience as a journeyman, he has a certain technical knowledge of the working part of the trade. Then he studies cutting from the many works which are published in the trade by certain houses by different cutters; and some cutters will undertake to give an apprentice, or at least a journeyman more often, a course of lessons in cutting. He will then, when he is proficient, probably pass an examination or go to some school in London here, and finish up and get a certificate; and if an employer finds a man can do the work, he will engage him at a certain wage, and according to his abilities so he will get a good position. So far as cutters are concerned, they get exceedingly good wages; but workmen are very different. As I said before, there are very few cutters who get low wages.

28869. *Lord Clinton.*] Do you find that there is more difficulty with the men when there is plenty of work, with regard to their drinking?

Yes, it is more often when there is plenty of work that they are drunk and incapable.

28870. That leads to pressure of work on certain days of the week?

Yes; for instance, last week myself I had this experience. The shop

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was full of work ; at this particular time of the year we are exceedingly busy ; and on Monday every man in the shop excepting one was off drinking, and everyone of those men had two garments for them to start on on Monday morning ; they left their work and went off deliberately drinking, and they came back and found this other man at work and took him off, a very steady man as a rule, but actually took him off and left me there without a man on the place.

28871. What day did they come to work ?

Some of them came back on Tuesday afternoon, some of them showed up on Wednesday, and some of them did not show up till Friday.

28872. You cannot discharge them, I suppose, because you cannot get better men ?

We can discharge them, but then we are worse off than ever.

28873. And does that happen at certain seasons to you more than at others ; say at holiday times ?

In our town last week there were two or three other employers who were served in the same way.

28874. What is the reason of it at that time ?

An influx of work. They have an idea that we cannot do without them, and they will enjoy themselves, and, of course, we must put up with the consequences. The consequence of that is that we have to give the work out to out-workers who are more temperate and look after the work.

28875. Have you, as foreman, anything to do with fixing the prices in your establishment ?

I have most to do with it.

28876. Is there any fixed statement of prices ?

We have what we call a log. There is a log for the town ; at least every business in the town pays to a certain log. There are certain shops that we call high-class trades who pay the log price, the best wage ; there are others who are not so high in their charges and do a medium class trade, who pay a less wage, a less price log ; and then there are others who do a cutting business and do a very low price trade.

28877. What I rather meant was, do the workmen themselves know, when they take work in a shop, what price they will get paid ?

Always ; it is marked on the ticket.

28878. It does not depend upon the foreman ?

It is a regulation price, a stated price in the shop ; and if I were to give a man a certain garment and he took it upstairs, and it was less than he received for that particular garment than we were in the habit of paying, they would not allow him to make it for that price ; he would bring it down again, and I would have to give it outside for somebody else to make, if I wanted it made for that lower figure.

28879. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] Have the employers made any attempt to check this drinking among the men ?

They have made many attempts, but I am sorry to say that it has not resulted in any very great benefit.

28880. In such a case as you mentioned, where some men did not come back till Thursday or Friday, could you not tell such men that they would not be required again, and give the work to out-workers ?

I have had to do that ; but the difficulty is this : if we discharge those men at this particular time of the year, we can get no others.

28881. The out-workers are full up with work ?

The out-workers themselves are full.

28882. Why do the society insist upon men not taking less pay for cheap work from one house and assent to their doing so in another house ?

That is one of the mysteries I cannot myself understand, except to prevent the better class house from paying a lower price.

28883. Have

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28883. Have you any total abstainers among your workmen ?

I have not among mine ; there are some in the town ; I have several out-workers who are total abstainers.

28884. Have any employers, do you know, attempted to make regulations in the shop with a view to preventing bad language and so forth ?

We have regulations in all the shops, but it is almost impossible to prevent a man smuggling beer up occasionally. We never allow beer in the shop, but it is one of those kind of things that it is almost impossible to keep out ; but we insist when a man is any way inclined to drink that he shall go out of the shop ; in fact, we do not allow him up if we know it.

28885. If a man comes to the shop, may he lay down his work at any hour and walk out ?

He may not, but he does. I had a case last week in which a man had two garments that were wanted specially for Tuesday ; this was Monday morning ; and I had said to him on the Saturday, " Now these two garments are ready for you to go on with on Monday. I hope you will be here and go on with them ; they are very particularly wanted." That man did not show up till Saturday ; I had to give them to another man to do, and he actually had the impudence to ask me to pay for what he had done to them. And that is not an isolated case. Nearly all the men expect that their interests are to be considered, and they have no consideration for ours.

28886. Lord *Monkswell*.] Are there temptations to drink, sometimes, from working long hours ?

I think, undoubtedly, when a man works long hours he is tempted to drink ; but I do not think that it requires much temptation to the ordinary tailor to drink.

28887. Do not you think it might be better sometimes to allow a man to drink his beer in the room than force him to go to the public-house to get drunk ?

I should like to prevent them getting it altogether, if it were possible.

28888. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] Not even in the dinner hour ?

I should not allow it in the shop ; if they wish to have their beer with their dinner, that is entirely different.

28889. Lord *Monkswell*.] With regard to industrial or reformatory school boys, it is suggested that they should be taken on as apprentices ; they must be turned out to the world at 16, and it is suggested that they should be regularly apprenticed to tailors ; 16 would not be too old, would it ?

No, 16 would not. When I was apprenticed to the trade I was about 16

28890. Then you think it a good suggestion that they should be regularly apprenticed when they leave school, or put out on license ?

Yes, I think certainly they should be properly apprenticed.

28891. And they would have to pay a premium, I suppose ?

I do not think any one would be foolish enough to pay a premium to learn the tailoring.

28892. You think that if a boy had a good character tailors would be glad to take him ?

If he had a good character.

28893. Even if he had been taught by this man at 32 *l.* a year ?

No ; I thoroughly object to that class of instruction.

28894. A boy must begin somehow ; why should he not begin after he leaves school ?

The objection is not with regard to the boy beginning, but with regard to the man who teaches him.

28895. Putting aside the teaching he gets at the school, why should not a

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boy who leaves a school at 16 be apprenticed to a tailor; he must begin some time or other?

Yes, I beg pardon; I have no objection to that.

28896. You would not object to taking boys from reformatory or industrial schools, if they had good characters from their master?

So far as I myself personally am concerned I should have no objection; if the boy showed any signs of reformation, and was likely to be a useful member of society, I should do my best to encourage him.

28897. Is there not this difficulty in teaching a boy to do any other kind of tailoring than is necessary for making his own clothes and the clothes of officials, that if the clothes are disposed of in the open market there is an outcry made against flooding the market with goods made in that way?

There has been that objection raised. At the same time I think the objection is false; I think it is a pity that the boy should be taught the trade in an inferior way; I think it would be far better if he were taught properly to start with.

28898. Why should the influx of unskilled labour reduce the wages of the better class of workshops. I can understand its reducing the wages of the worst class of workshops, but I thought the better class of workmen were always sought after in your trade?

We have not sufficient of the better class of workmen.

28899. How is it that their wages are reduced by the influx of unskilled workmen?

Simply because the quality of the work, taking it all the way through, is lower than it used to be.

28900. Then do you mean that no such skilled work is made now as used to be made?

No; I mean that, generally speaking, there is not the quality that there used to be.

28901. What you mean is that there is not the same amount of high-class work turned out as there used to be?

There is not the same amount of high-class tailors; they are a medium class; but the men can make more money by making a lot of garments of tweeds and that sort of thing, and the higher class men cannot make the wages.

28902. *Chairman.*] To revert for one moment to this question of indoor and outdoor working, should I be correct in supposing that, generally speaking, the men working indoors would be unmarried men, and the outworkers would be married men?

Not at all. The men that work indoors and the men that work outdoors are both married and unmarried; but probably, when I come to think of it, I should say the majority of the men who work out are married men; there are many who are not married who work out; but at the same time I should think (I have never thought of it that way) that the majority of those are married men.

28903. Would the majority of those working indoors be unmarried, should you say?

Not at all.

28904. The proportion would be about the same of married to unmarried.

In my own shop I can say there is not one that is not married; there was one recently.

28905. Is there anything you wish to say to the Committee; any point that you have not been asked about that you wish to mention.

I wish to point out two things; I would like to suggest two things that I think are the cause of sweating, two main things that produce sweating; and as I said before in my evidence a little while ago, the main thing is the intemperate habits of the workmen and also the inefficiency of the workpeople. And I think if sweating is to be stopped, the skilled labour must be increased;

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I mean the value of the skilled labour must be increased; and we must have some efficient method of technical education, which we have not at the present time. As a matter of fact the technical education of the tailoring trade is, to say the least of it, something deplorable. We have no means at all of educating the boys to the trade in a proper way. We have a system of haphazard apprenticeship, but the old system of apprenticeship has entirely lapsed, and a boy is put to the trade, he comes to the trade to learn the trade, he stops a year or 18 months, and he does almost as he likes. Boys come from these institutions without any knowledge, or very little knowledge, of the trade; and so the bulk of these people who have to work for sweaters is increased. They cannot take a job on their own responsibility; they are not sufficiently skilled; and they naturally dwindle or drift into the sweaters' dens, and so supply them with all the labour they need. They are bound to get a living, they must do something for a living; and consequently the sweater finds a place for them and pays them a price that he considers their labour is suitable for, and of course he finds them work, whereas nobody else will.

28906. By what means do you think this deficiency in technical education could be supplied, or have you any idea?

It could be supplied by some reliable system of schools, a technical school, an institution, or something of that kind. At the present time we have nothing of the kind. In a trade like ours, a man to learn his trade must have a certain amount of ability, and to be a good tailor he must have as much brains and as much skill as in any other trade, though it may seem a strange thing to the ordinary public that a man should be required to be as competent to learn tailoring as to learn engineering, or anything else. The popular idea is that it is a very simple easy trade, but it is not; whereas a man might make a very indifferent tailor he would make a very good lawyer. Tailoring is a trade that requires a good deal of skill and a good deal of training, and such training is not provided. My idea is that there should be a technical institution. As a matter of fact there is an institution, there is an association, that has this work, or ought to have this work, under its care. It holds a charter from the Government, in fact it holds six Royal charters under the Government.

28907. What is the institution?

The institution is the Merchant Tailors' Company. It holds six Royal charters, and in each one of those charters it expressly stipulates that this association, or the company or guild, as it is more properly called now-a-days, shall teach boys the trade, that the trade shall be fostered and encouraged, and that a proper supervision shall be extended over the workmen. This association has had money left to it by old tradesmen, tailors who have served their time and generation, and, with the object of helping forward the trade, have left money, bequests. This property, of course, has gone to this association, this guild; they hold it in mortmain, they draw the revenue from it; but they apply nothing whatever of the income towards the purposes for which they hold their charter. Now, I consider that it is a disgrace upon our national free institutions that such a state of things should be allowed to exist in this 19th century. While all these other guilds are doing their best to help forward technical education throughout the country, the Merchant Tailors' Company have ignored it. We have tried all we could to help forward the work. I have myself written with others, in connection with our society, to the clerk of the company, and brought the matter before them, and they have considered the subject, and they have made us an offer, a kind of an offer that is entirely inadequate and entirely unbecoming such an institution. In the first place they made an offer for scientific cutting; and I pointed out, with several other gentlemen, that scientific cutting was not a thing that required support or required any schools for the establishment of it or anything of that kind, because it was very well able to take care of itself.

28908. I do not know that you need go into the details of the correspondence or the controversy you have had with them. I may take it from you that in your opinion the Merchant Tailors' Guild, if they used their money in the way

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which you think they ought, would be able to supply the deficiency of technical education which you complain of?

Yes; I wish to show your Lordships that the Merchant Taylors' Company should establish a technical institute. They, as a responsible body, could do it where we as a trade could not.

28909. I understand that it is your contention that the sweating is largely due to the want of technical knowledge, and that that technical knowledge could be supplied, and, in your opinion, ought to be supplied, by the Merchant Taylors' Guild; is that so?

My opinion is that the sweating is mainly caused by inefficient workmen; that there is no means at the present time of supplying proper apprentices to the trade; we have no system of apprenticeship; that some means should be devised, by those who have the power, to establish a kind of technical school, in which boys could be efficiently taught the trade. This association that I speak of, of course, has the money; they have 43,000*l.* a year; and we think, as a trade, that this money should be devoted to the purposes of ameliorating the condition of our workmen. Our workmen are in a deplorable state from the want of some help outside; that is to say, some reliable organisation.

28910. Is there any other point you want to mention?

I think the compulsory registration of all workshops, including the homes of outworkers, with power to enforce sanitary regulations, should be a part of the law of the land; and I also think that a system of technical education or trade schools, endowed and supported by an organisation or a company such as the one I have been indicating, should be adopted throughout the country in all the large cities; so that in every city we should have a school in which the boys should be properly and efficiently taught the trade; so that we might have a guarantee when a man came to our shop that he could make a job, and that we could give it to him with confidence to be made. And I think, further, that some method is needed by which the charitable and industrial schools shall be induced to employ trained and skilful teachers, who might be drawn from such institutions as these that I have indicated. I think it is a very important thing that these industrial schools should have properly-trained men to instruct the boys; and, further, some test or certificate of ability should be required of teachers seeking to become members of the trade unions; and a change should be made in the pernicious practice of employing men without requiring of them a written character; this is a habit, or at least a thing that is very common in the trade.

28911. Do you mean that you think the trades unions, the men's associations, should insist upon a man being of good character and having a sufficient knowledge of his business?

Yes, before he should be admitted as a member of a trade society; and I also think that it should be customary in the trade not to engage a man unless he bears a written character as to his respectability and his ability. As it is, a man comes to our shop and he asks for work; we have no means of judging what that man can do at all, except just by the look of him.

28912. When you say it should be customary, of course that is somewhat vague; you do not mean to say that it should be compulsory in any way, do you; in your opinion it would be a good thing if it was so; but you do not mean to suggest that anything should be done to legally enforce that?

I should hardly see how it could be made compulsory, but I would certainly suggest that such a thing should be done. I do not see how it can be made legally so. I think if the moral tone of the men is raised, and sobriety and skill encouraged among the rising generation, both by the masters and by the men, the evils of sweating in the higher branches of the trade would entirely disappear. There is no doubt that in the bespoke trade the sweating has to a certain extent increased. In the higher-class trades they have, as I said before, been compelled to employ sweaters simply because they could not help themselves.

28913. I think that you have already told us. Would the remarks you have made

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made and the evidence you have given as regards Sheffield, apply generally to the other towns that you are acquainted with in your official capacity?

Undoubtedly it is so.

28914. I understand the greater number of the principal towns in the kingdom belong to your institution?

Yes, I can give you the names: Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Belfast, Aberdeen, Hull, Sheffield, Gloucester.

28915. Nottingham?
Nottingham.

28916. Derby?
No, we have no association at Derby.

28917. Newcastle, Northampton, Dundee, Barnsley, Edinburgh; Leeds I think you mentioned also.

Leeds too.

28918. And what you said would apply to the trade in those towns too?
What I have said would apply to all of them.

28919. You spoke of the competition of foreign labour, and I think you said that it was small in Sheffield?

It is small in Sheffield.

28920. Are the Committee to infer from that that it is greater in some of these other towns with which you are acquainted?

A great deal.

28921. In which?

In Leeds undoubtedly, and Hull especially. The secretary of the society at Hull tells me that men come from the Danish ports and other ports on the Baltic, and they land at Hull very often with scarcely any money at all, and they go into the shops to work; there is scarcely an English tailor employed in the different workshops in Hull; I do not think there are half-a-dozen in the town; there may be about that, but the majority of them are foreigners; and it acts very much against the British workman, because these men are glad to work at anything. And then again these men have a better training in a great many cases; a great many of them have a better training than our Englishmen have; they are brought up in technical schools abroad; we have no technical schools for tailoring here, but they have them abroad, and they come in direct competition with our own workmen. They are able to live on a great deal less. The consequence is that our workmen are driven out of the town. These men pass on from there to Leeds, and so they swell the market at Leeds. The immigration of foreign labour has to my mind a great deal to do with the sweating system.

28922. You have mentioned that that foreign labour is possessed of better technical knowledge?

Some of it.

28923. I want to know about the "some of it"; do you object to the foreign immigration chiefly because it is better instructed?

Not at all.

28924. Or chiefly because it is cheaper?

We do not object to the importation of foreign skill at all; we welcome it. But I speak of that to show that our own workpeople who are not efficiently instructed are driven out of the market very often by the superior training of the foreigner; and also in the case of many foreigners who come into the country, the inefficiency of the men lowers the prices; and the two causes act, the highest and the lowest, against our ordinary English working tailor.

28925. But you do not object to the immigration of the foreign skilled labour?

No, we do not object to the foreign skilled labour, excepting as it affect

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[Continued.]

our trade. It affects the labour supply and demand; that is a matter, of course that we cannot interfere with. We would certainly welcome them as an educational feature.

28926. But do I understand you to object to the foreign unskilled labour?

We certainly do; we have enough paupers of our own to help without helping those.

28927. And you say that that is very large in Hull?

Very large in Hull, and Leeds too.

28928. Are there any other towns where it is very large?

A great many of them find their way, of course, to other towns, such as Manchester and Liverpool, and some of them up to Glasgow, but there are not many come to Nottingham or Sheffield; a great many, of course, are in London here, and they are lauded in London.

28929. In your opinion is this evil so great that you think it ought to be checked or dealt with in any way by the State?

I think the immigration of foreign labour, inefficient labour, ought certainly to be dealt with by the State.

28930. Do you mean stopped?

Stopped. Unless a man could prove that he could get a living he should not be allowed to land on our shores; and the proof of his ability would be a certificate from his employer as to his ability to work, and so forth.

28931. Or the possession of means?

Or the possession of means, of course.

28932. Earl of Derby.] How are you to test whether a man is capable of getting his living in England?

Does your Lordship mean with regard to his ability?

28933. Yes.

If we give him a job we can see immediately then as to his ability, if that is the nature of the question.

28934. I am speaking of immigrants on their first landing; you propose to exclude them unless they can show that they are qualified to obtain their living; so I understand your evidence; now I ask how you would test that?

I would prevent them starting. I would make it incumbent on steamship companies not to take them to land on the English shores unless they were men who were capable of supporting themselves at their business; in the same way as the Americans do in regard to foreign labour there.

28935. I quite understand that; the question I put to you is how you would enforce that test; how would you ascertain whether they were capable or not?

I would make it this way: that the steamship agents should not allow any emigrant to England who could not show a certificate of competency, unless they had capital, of course, to support themselves when they came here.

28936. You mean a certificate of competency from any employer?

From their employer, undoubtedly.

28937. Would there not be the greatest possible facility for forging documents of that kind. Who would be able to test it?

There would be every opportunity to find out the stability of the signatures. We know most of the leading trades in the different towns both on the Continent and in England.

28938. You think it would be possible to ascertain the individual capacity of every foreign immigrant who landed?

Not quite; I think it would be possible to get from them a certificate, and that on its face would prevent men coming who were utterly incapable of getting their own living.

28939. But if a man said that he brought enough with him to support him for a year or six months, what then?

His

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[Continued.]

His saying so would have nothing to do with it. If he had sufficient capital of course that would be sufficient.

28940. Lord *Clinton*.] Should you wish to see the old system of apprenticeship revived in your trade?

I should wish to see a system of apprenticeship revived, but certainly modified. I do not think seven years should be the term. I do not think it is fair to put a boy to learn the trade for seven years; I think he could learn all that is to be learned in five years; but I certainly think if we had some kind of a technical school in which a boy could learn sewing thoroughly and properly, and then be drafted into the workshops where he could be of use to the workmen, then the workmen would take such boys willingly and teach them the trade, and they would get better ideas than they would even in the ordinary institutions.

28941. But you do not approve of the old system of apprenticing directly to the tradesman?

It is a failure, and it always will be under modern institutions; it is a thing of the past.

28942. In your opinion, why did it fail?

One reason of its failure was the length of time that a boy was apprenticed for.

28943. Do you mean it was not long enough?

It was too long; seven years was too long. A boy got disgusted. After he had stayed probably four or five years and could earn as much as any man in the shop, he got tired of stopping and working for his employer, and he ran away.

28944. You think the apprenticeship should be after the boy had had some technical education in a school?

If the boy had some idea of sewing, and of the principles of the trade, then he would be of more value to a workman, who would willingly pay him to work for him.

28945. Then about certificates of character; you said you thought a man should get a certificate of character before he was employed; do you require that in your own establishment?

Unfortunately we do not; it is not a rule of the trade. The biggest black-guard and the greatest scamp is very often the best workman; that is the unfortunate part of it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY WHITEHEAD, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

28946. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?

I am a master tailor and clothier in Sheffield.

28947. Does that mean that you both do the bespoke and ready-made clothing?

Yes.

28948. What is the bulk of your business, the bespoke?

I think it is about equal.

28949. As to the bespoke part of your business, do you make the goods upon your own premises?

We make part on the premises, and part of them we give out.

28950. To outworkers, or to these people who have been called sweaters?

To outworkers.

28951. And do you pay the same prices to the outworkers and the inworkers? Yes, about the same, I should think.

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[Continued.]

28952. Then the outworker would be at a disadvantage, would he not, in so far as having to provide machines and rooms is concerned?

To that extent, he is.

28953. And what would his advantage be?

His advantage generally is that he gets more of the trade. We generally find that we can secure more attention from the outworker, and more trade made by the outworker, and get it done by the time stated, than by the inworker.

28954. He can also work any hours he pleases?

He can work longer, and he gets the assistance of his wife or daughter generally.

28955. Would that give him a substantial advantage over the inworker in his wage-earning capacity?

Yes.

28956. And do you think that accounts largely for the prevalence of outworking?

I do.

28957. Did you hear the evidence given by the last witness as to the comparative steadiness of the men working indoors on the employers' premises and the outworkers?

Yes; there is a tendency for the inworkers to go off on the spree, as they term it. But I put that down mainly to the uncertainty of the trade; they come on Monday morning to work very often, and instead of having a job given to them, they are told to come down again in a little time; nothing is prepared, and they like all to start together, and if one has a job and the other has not they will perhaps go off. I attribute to that cause often the men going off drinking.

28958. You think that the inworkers are not so steady as the outworkers?

Yes.

28959. But you think that their comparative unsteadiness is due to the precarious nature of the trade?

Yes, I do.

28960. Then you would not agree with the statement that the fact that they do not go to work or that they are not working on Mondays and Tuesdays, is due to the unsteadiness of the men; but you think rather that the unsteadiness of the men is due to the fact that there is not regular work on Monday or Tuesday for them?

Except in the busy times, it is very rare that they can start on Monday morning. The custom is in the cheaper shops to get all the work executed up to Saturday, and the cutters have not time to prepare for Monday morning, and so the men could not have a job then.

28961. Do you pay the inworkers and outworkers on the same system?

Yes, exactly.

28962. Piece-work?

Yes, piece-work.

28963. Based on a certain price per hour?

Yes; so much per job, the coat or whatever garment it may be.

28964. Does any of your work go to the outworkers who employ labour?

None of mine does.

28965. Do you allow the men working for you on your premises to take work home?

They work late enough at the shop. I do not think they would have time or care to take it home; they could do so; they please themselves; they take it out, and we have no control over them.

28966. They

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[Continued.]

28966. They may take it home if they like ?
If they like.

28967. But you think they do not ?
I think they do not.

28968. Do you see any objection to this outworking on grounds of public health ?

I think that it would be beneficial to have the houses registered, and to prevent the work being done in sleeping apartments. I think that they ought to be compelled to work in a room apart from them. If they work there their wife assists them, and the children follow them in, and I think it is injurious to the health of the whole household.

28969. Do you mean that the work is injurious to the people engaged in it, or that it is injurious from the danger of infectious disease ?

For those engaged in it. I think the bedrooms should not be used as work-shops.

28970. Is a proportion of all your work done outside ?
No trousers ; all coats are made out, trousers in.

28971. And how about the vests ?
Vests out.

28972. They are made by women ?
Mostly by women.

28973. Does the quality of your bespoke trade goods vary very much ?
They vary. We have all classes, I might say ; chiefly the middle classes.

28974. What do the prices you pay vary for coats, trousers, and waistcoats ?
The lowest is 6 s. the coat, and going up to 12 s. or 14 s. ; it just depends upon the style of the garment. But the reason that there is not so much sweating in Sheffield is this ; there is a great deal of what we call special orders given out. These are similar to the ready-made garments, but made to a measure, and these are sent to the centres where these ready-made clothes are made, such as Manchester and Leeds, and those large towns. My ready-made trade is carried on in the manufacturing centres ; so we should have more of this sweating if the goods were made in the town ; but the special orders are all sent out.

28975. I understand you that the orders, even in Sheffield, are sent out to other towns to be made up ?

The cheap class, the very low class ; so that we do not require so many of these sweaters in Sheffield to do the work.

28976. Has that been the case always ?
For some few years.

28977. Is that the case with your own business ?
Yes.

28978. Where do you get your orders executed ?
Many in Leeds.

28979. Then you get them made cheaper there than you can in Sheffield ?

Yes ; if we have a ready-made suit ticketed 30 s., if a man wishes to be measured for the same garment, for a small sum more he can be measured and have it made his own style ; instead of having it made in Sheffield we send to Leeds for it, and we should secure one made to a measure.

28980. Could you buy them in Leeds cheaper than you could get them made in Sheffield ?

Yes.

28981. How is that ?

There are factories there where the division of labour is carried on.

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Mr. WHITEHEAD.

[*Continued.*]

28982. Is that the sole reason, do you think?

That is the sole reason. Of course there is a great deal of sweating carried on there, where these are made; these are all made by the sweaters.

28983. I suppose you do not know how they are made at Leeds?

No.

28984. You only know that you can get them made cheaper than you can get them made yourself at Sheffield?

Yes, much cheaper.

28985. Do you suppose that the average wages earned in Sheffield are higher than the average wages in other places?

I think the tailors' average wages are very good, if they like to work all the time.

28986. Has foreign immigration had any effect upon your trade in Sheffield? No; we do not feel it in the least.

28987. Do you think that the hours of labour ought to be limited according to the factory regulations in these family workshops?

No, I do not. The wife will only assist during her spare time; she will have her household duties to attend to, so that she cannot be working all the time, like a woman that has nothing else to do but to work at the trade; she will just assist when she has a spare hour or two, mostly.

28988. So that you think that it would be hard upon her, and others like her, not to be able to work late at night?

Very hard; because that might be the time that she was at liberty.

28989. Then I take it from you that as far as the ready-made clothes, properly so-called, and also these special orders, that trade has a tendency to leave Sheffield altogether?

We have never had it in Sheffield; it is not going away, because we have never had it. It is a thing that has grown more recently; the working classes seem to have a desire to be measured, and this meets their desire; they seem to think that they are getting something better when they are measured than buying a ready-made garment; that is the only thing in it.

28990. Have you anything that you would like to say as to the want of technical education in the trade?

No, I have nothing to say on that point; I think Mr. Leggatt has said it very well.

28991. That is what I mean; do you agree with Mr. Leggatt?

To a certain extent, I do.

28992. To what extent?

I think the trade wants encouraging in all ways.

28993. Do you think that the absence of sufficient technical education is prejudicial to the trade?

I think it would be a great advantage if we had these schools where tailoring was taught. It must be. The tailoring trade, one might say, is almost dying out from the want of good men. The good men are very scarce now.

28994. You think that there is too much unskilled labour, and not enough skilled labour?

There is plenty of unskilled labour; very little skilled labour.

28995. Lord Sandhurst.] Does that apply universally, or to your own town?

It applies universally, I think. There are no apprentices being put to the trade now. I do not know where the good men are coming from in the future. Previously the apprentices used to sew the seams to the garments; now they are not required for that; so it is difficult to put a lad to the trade; for some time there is very little he can do at first.

28996. Chairman.]

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Mr. WHITEHEAD.

[Continued.]

28996. *Chairman*] Are the wages of practical men in the trade going up? I should say they are keeping up as high as ever they were.

28997. But they are not rising?
I do not think they are rising much.

28998. If there was such a scarcity of skilled labour, would it not be natural to suppose that the wages would rise in consequence?

They cannot rise above a certain price, because there is a log that would rule the prices; they will not pay above that, although in the best shops they are always willing to pay a little more to get a garment made well; it is our own interest to do that to get the best work.

28999. You said that there is a superabundance of unskilled labour, and as for skilled labour you are puzzled to know where it will come from in the future; if that is so, would not that tend to right itself; as the skilled labour becomes scarce one would suppose that it would lead to an increase of wages, and then people would take the trouble to become skilled tailors?

I believe in time skilled labour will be very much more valuable; I believe the really first-class men will soon be able to secure their own price.

29000. Lord Sandhurst.] What does a first-class man get?

He is paid according to the garment that he makes. A first-class man can make 45 s. per week. Some first-class men are very slow in their work; it depends upon their quickness.

29001. *Chairman*.] Have you any knowledge of the trade in any town except Sheffield?

No.

29002. Then you probably have nothing you wish to say about the immigration of foreign labour?

No, I have not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. THEODORE THOMSON, M.B., is called in; and, having been sworn is Examined, as follows:

29003. *Chairman*.] ARE you the medical officer of health for Sheffield?
I am.

29004. How long have you held that position?
About a year and a-half.

29005. What have you to say as to the sanitary condition generally of the workshops?

With those that I have visited, the principal fault that I had to find was that they were badly ventilated places; a large number of people in smallish rooms, and a hot fire always going; and in two or three cases I was called in on account of the deficiency of privy accommodation.

29006. Would that be in large shops?

That was in the larger shops; that does not refer to the domestic workshops.

29007. Then you would say that in general the large shops are fairly satisfactory?

I think they are, fairly.

29008. In some cases deficiency in privy accommodation, and in others more generally deficient in ventilation?

Yes.

29009. A deficiency of cubic space?

Yes.

29010. And as to the domestic workshops where outwork is carried on?

(11.)

M M

Their

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[Continued.]

Their general sanitary conditions are better. One does not find overcrowding, and the complaint about privy accommodation does not exist. On the other hand, there is a greater risk there from zymotic diseases; the risk of propagating zymotic diseases is very considerable in those domestic places.

29011. By domestic shops, do you understand a workshop where hired labour is employed other than members of the family, or do you mean a family workshop?

I do not draw any distinction between the hiring and the non-hiring of labour. My own experience has only been a comparatively small one. I mean those cases where the tenant of the house devotes one room of that house to the purposes of tailoring, and where, as a rule, he has only two or three people working on a very small scale, perhaps only members of his own family it may be, or one or two extra workers.

29012. And in those cases there is danger of zymotic disease being propagated?

Decidedly.

29013. When you say there is danger of that, do you mean to say that it has occurred?

I have never been able to trace a case definitely to one of these places of infection occurring. That is a very difficult matter to do. For instance, in the last epidemic of small-pox in Sheffield, it would have been practically impossible to say that this bit of cloth was infected and gave rise to such another case somewhere else, because the sources of infection were so widely spread that it would have been scientifically speaking impossible to say such a thing as that; but what I did find in two or three cases was the existence of small-pox in a house where such work was being carried on, and where there were no sufficient precautions taken to prevent the clothing becoming contaminated with small-pox infection.

29014. How would you suggest to deal with that?

It is rather a difficult problem. I should think that a good thing would be to have those houses all under supervision, speaking strictly from a sanitary point of view; to have them registered, so that no house would be used to make up clothing unless it were sanitarily satisfactory. In addition, I think it would be a good thing for the local authority to have powers somewhat similar to those they have in common lodging-houses; powers to make bye-laws to prevent the spread of zymotic diseases, such as compulsory notification in those houses of any case of zymotic disease occurring, and an increased power of removal. At the present moment, the only power of removal we have in those workshops is a power given us in one of the clauses of the Public Health Act, which is a very insufficient power; very limited. In addition, I think those bye-laws might give us more stringent powers in the matter of disinfection, requiring that to be done to the satisfaction of the local authority, that meaning probably the medical officer of health, as their representative; and that no work should go on after a case of zymotic disease had occurred there until the medical officer was satisfied that all had been done which ought to have been done.

29015. What diseases are included in zymotic diseases?

It is a very long list; diseases such as small-pox, cholera, typhus, typhoid, measles, whooping cough, and a considerable number of others.

29016. Do you think there should be such a power of removal in a case of measles?

I think the local authority should have discretion in the matter, and be able to say whether or not the case should be removed. I think that the matter should be absolutely in the discretion of the local authority as it is practically at present in common lodging-houses.

29017. Do you not think it would be hard to make people remove their children who wish to look after them themselves?

It would, but I am speaking entirely from a sanitary point of view. Those people have a disease in their houses which may be propagated outside; speaking

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[Continued.]

speaking as medical officer of health I think that one of two things ought to be done; either all work in the clothing trade stopped in that house for the time being, unless the conditions are such as to satisfy the local authority or the patient should be removed.

29018. You think that the alternative which of those courses should be pursued, might with safety be left in the hands of the sanitary authority?

I think so.

29019. Then you would suggest that all places where work is carried on should be registered?

Yes.

29020. And that there should be compulsory notification of the existence of infectious diseases?

Yes.

29021. And that then the sanitary authority should have power to deal with the matter in the way it thought right?

Yes. I wish it to be understood that that would not entirely obviate the difficulty. There is one matter which it would not obviate, and that is the difficulty arising from the ignorance of the people. It frequently happens, not perhaps so much with small-pox, though I have known it happen there, too, but in other diseases where the eruption is a very trifling one sometimes, such as scarlet fever, that the cases are not recognised as an infectious disease, and in such a case of course the provisions would be of no avail.

29022. Do not you think that the suggestions you have made would tend to create a still greater amount of ignorance on that point; I mean that people would be still more inclined to say that they were not aware that it was an infectious disease?

They would try to get out of it if they could; but I am afraid they try to do that at present, because though we have not the power we might have as sanitary authority, still the power we have is irksome to them, and they try to keep things dark, so as not to get into trouble.

29023. This danger you speak of would, I suppose, affect the greater number of tailoring and clothing establishments in Sheffield; a great deal of the work is generally put out to outworkers, is it not?

I cannot speak as to the per-centage of outworkers.

29024. I think you wrote on this subject, did you not, to the Secretary of the Tailors' Amalgamated Society in Sheffield?

Yes.

29025. If that is your opinion you might read it to us, as it puts the matter very shortly?

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant asking me to state my opinion of the 'sweating' system as a cause of the propagation of small-pox and other infectious diseases. I think it is beyond question that the letting out of clothing to be made up under the conditions so frequently existing in sweaters' establishments, is a practice which must in many cases largely aid the spread of infectious diseases. In the case of the smaller sweating shop which is often the house in which the sweater lives, or one room of that house, the public are exposed to all the risks that arise from a case of infectious disease breaking out in his family and remaining to be treated at home with, it may be, entire absence of precautions against the spread of infection, such cases being often kept secret lest it might be necessary that the patient should be removed to the hospital. It is a serious reflexion for purchasers that the article of clothing they are buying may have been on the very bed in which lay a case of small-pox, or have been made by some one whose attention was divided between their work and the handling of a patient suffering from small-pox or some other deadly infectious malady. Even in the large establishments which do not come under the category of 'domestic sweaters' the conditions are usually such as to greatly intensify the risk of infectious disease being brought in contact with, and therefore spreading by

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[Continued.]

articles of clothing, in which the virus of infection readily finds a medium by which it may be distributed broadcast."

29026. I presume there would be danger also in the case of people working in a factory or large workshop when there was infectious disease in their dwellings?

Yes; undoubtedly. The danger in such a case is not so much the danger of the worker taking infection on his clothing or hands and conveying it by that means to the clothing on which he is working, but of the worker himself taking the disease and continuing to work while he is infectious, a not infrequent occurrence; that is liable to occur under all circumstances.

29027. That would be more difficult to guard against?
More difficult.

29028. Lord *Clinton*.] I think you said that in some of the workshops you found the cubic space insufficient?

Yes.

29029. Is it not a part of the business of the factory inspector to see that there is sufficient cubic space accommodation?

I believe he has to do with that.

29030. It is part of your business, too?

No; my business at those establishments would be simply in such matters as regards privy accommodation; I do not think that in the other matter I have any direct authority.

29031. You found insufficient cubic space, you say. In some of the places that you visited, what did you do; did you report it to anyone?

No.

29032. It was not part of your business to do so?

I did not consider that it was. My attention was called in this case by the factory inspector to the want of privy accommodation.

29033. Is it part of his business to report the want of sanitary accommodation to you as medical officer?

Yes.

29034. But you are not bound to report to him anything that you find that comes under his duty?

No.

29035. Then your attention was called in this case to the want of privy accommodation by the factory inspector?

By the factory inspector.

29036. *Chairman*.] Have you anything else you would like to say?

I think not.

29037. You have not told us what you consider a sufficiency of air space?

No, I should not like to specify that; it is a matter that depends so much upon the question of ventilation. The amount of cubic space is not a thing that you can lay down the law upon absolutely; it depends very much whether the ventilation is good or bad. In one particular room, which I thought was badly ventilated, probably the cubic space might have been sufficient had the means adopted to secure ventilation been satisfactory; but practically there was none; doors and windows were shut, and it was stifling.

29038. Lord *Clinton*.] Is it not the practice among them to close all means of ventilation even when they have got it?

Yes; they require to be such as cannot be closed if you want to be sure of ventilation, and even then there is a tendency on their part to paste over apertures.

29039. *Chairman*.] There is a standard laid down in the Factory Act, is not there?

I am not very conversant with the Factory Act; I have very little to do with the Factory Act.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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MR. WILLIAM JOHN DAVIS, having been recalled ; is further Examined, as follows :

29040. *Chairman.*] You are the inspector under the Factory Act for Sheffield ?

Yes. One of them.

29041. You have given evidence before the Committee as regards the cutlery trades ?

Yes.

29042. I think you gave us evidence then as to the sufficiency of air space ?

Yes ; with respect to the tailoring trade I tendered some evidence which was out of order then, and which I suppose will be taken to-day.

29043. But I mean on this particular point that we have last been speaking of ?

On this particular point I stated that 250 cubic feet of space was required in a workshop in the day time, and 400 cubic feet at night by the Factory and Workshop Act.

29044. Did you state also whether in your opinion that was sufficient or not ?

In my opinion that is ample, with the proviso, that the ventilation is satisfactory.

29045. Do you think it would be possible to devise any means of ventilation which would be satisfactory, taking into consideration the tendency of the people to close up openings made for the purpose of ventilation ?

Ventilation is very difficult, I believe, for architects to deal with ; I know it is for inspectors. If the ventilation is by means of a window, when the east wind is on, they will close the window and get no ventilation.

29046. Now as regards these workshops, tailors' workshops, that would come under your inspection ; what have you got to say about their sanitary condition in that respect ?

So far as I have investigated the condition of the workshops and employment generally in Sheffield, I am forced to admit that they are, on the whole, of a very satisfactory character.

29047. With regard to these, as they have been called, domestic workshops, do they come under you ?

As domestic workshops only.

29048. Are they satisfactory, do you know ?

So far as my visits to domestic workshops in Sheffield are concerned, I have found that the requirements of the Act have been observed, and that the sanitary conditions are excellent.

29049. The places where work is carried on by members of the same family only, you would not have any jurisdiction over, would you ?

Yes, we should have jurisdiction ; that is a domestic workshop within the meaning of the Act.

29050. Then you have a large acquaintance, I presume, with all places where tailoring is carried on in Sheffield, whether in factories or large workshops on the premises of the firms, or whether in what have been called sweaters' places, where a man employs a few hands, or whether in dwelling houses of the people, outworkers, in which only members of the family are employed ?

I do not know any tailoring establishment of either a large or small size, or a work-room that I have not visited ; there may be scores, but to my knowledge I do not know of one that I have not been into.

29051. And the condition is generally satisfactory ?

Generally satisfactory ; that is to say, we have had ventilators put in ; we have improved the sanitary condition ; my colleague has represented to the medical

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Mr. DAVIS.

[Continued.]

officer of health, certain places that required the local authority's attention, and, I believe, that has been carried out.

29052. Have you had much difficulty in finding out places where work is carried on?

There is some difficulty.

29053. Have you had such difficulties as would lead you to suppose that work may be carried on in many places you do not know of?

I should imagine that work is carried on in some houses that I know nothing about.

29054. Do you know anything about this question of infectious diseases; whether they are likely to be carried by clothing made in these places?

I should think myself that in the tailoring trade there has been about the same proportion of cases as in others. We had an epidemic of small-pox in Sheffield, and from my investigations I should imagine that about the same proportion of cases happened in the tailoring trade as in others, according to the number employed; because in very large works they started a fund in order to protect themselves against any case of small-pox, by moving the patient to his own home or to a hospital and bearing the cost thereof. That was very common in the town.

29055. Do you think it would be a good thing if all places where work is carried on were registered?

Undoubtedly. A few amendments of the Act are required, and then, I think, that this excessive labour could be prevented, where there is no check now.

29056. Do you think there would be any objection made on the part of the people to have them registered?

On the part of the people who violate the present Act of Parliament there would be a decided objection; on the part of the general public I do not think there would be any.

29057. "Violate the Act"; in what respect do you mean?

Well, they work after 10 o'clock at night, some of them.

29058. That was not violating the Act, in their own houses?

That is violating the spirit of the Act in the domestic workshop.

29059. I do not quite understand how you define a domestic workshop. As I understand you, you would call a place where a woman and her daughter were making waistcoats in their own dwelling-room a domestic workshop?

Yes, that is so; the woman could work as long as she liked, but the daughter should not be employed after 10 o'clock on more than 48 occasions during the year.

29060. But you could not interfere with the woman herself?

You could not interfere with the woman herself according to the present Act of Parliament.

29061. Do you think it would require amendment in that respect?

I think that work after 10 o'clock at night should be prevented by Act of Parliament.

29062. Why do you fix it after 10?

Because if work is commenced at eight in the morning and concludes at 10, it is 14 hours a day, which I recognise as too much; but the public may be altogether unfavourable to 12 hours, and in favour of 14 hours a day.

29063. Is it not a fact that a good deal of this work is carried on by women who work at odd times, two or three hours a day, or three or four hours whenever they get a chance, and that it might be hard to restrict them to 10 o'clock at night?

So far as my investigations go in the tailoring trade, I find that the women, vest makers, do not work these excessive hours; some of them work 60 hours a week, and some of them 64.

29064. That

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[Continued.]

29064. That is not quite an answer to my question ; what I asked you was whether it is not the case that a great deal of the work done by women may be done by women who work at odd times, whenever they get a chance ?

That is not my experience.

29065. You think that is not the case ?

I do not think so ; I have known it in exceptional cases.

29066. But generally they work at it as their trade ?

As their trade.

29067. I think you gave us a tabulated statement with regard to the cutlery ?

Yes, and I have one also with regard to tailoring, coats, waistcoats, and trousers (*handing it in*). There are two, one is the January and the other is the February table.

29068. Are these all outworkers ?

These are all outworkers.

29069. It gives the names of the people, their employers and their occupation, prices paid, and so on, and the answers to various questions that you put to them ?

Yes ; you see there are two cases in which small-pox occurred during one year in that number of names.

29070. Did these people understand that what they told you was liable to be published ?

Yes, they quite understood that.

29071. You suppose that they would have no objection to their names being mentioned ?

I put that to each individual, and also informed them that they could refuse to give information if they thought proper to do so.

29072. The pencil figures are your averages ?

The wages each person would receive if he or she worked those number of hours.

29073. Worked what number of hours ?

The number of hours stated in the Table ; you will find there the cost of machine, and the cost of keeping it in repair. In this Table you will also find the rent of the house or shop.

29074. When you have got a column showing their working hours per week, are we to understand that they work those hours per week on an average all the year round ?

No, there is another, which gives the number of hours per week.

29075. Is your pencil average founded on that ?

Yes, founded on the whole Table ; that is for the 46 weeks, or the 40 weeks which they work during the year, as the case may be.

29076. Why do you say your figures are correct "if" they work that number of hours ?

If they work the weekly number of hours, because the number of garments they make in a week is given to me as being the number if they work the number of hours stated in the Table.

29077. Then how would you know whether they do or do not according to your Table ?

They state that they do work those hours in busy seasons. Then in another column I ask them how many full weeks they have in the year ; some say 44, some 46, some 40.

29078. Then are your averages founded upon that latter ?

Yes, my averages are founded upon the number of hours in each week worked.

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Mr. DAVIS.

[Continued.]

29079. Then your averages are correct?

My averages are correct; those are the earnings of the workpeople, and you will find the rent of the house or the shop stated.

29080. Then you are not correct in stating that the averages are correct "if" they work that number of hours?

I think what I stated is correct; that is to say, I have to find first how many hours a man or a woman tailor works in a week, and then I put another question, "If you work these number of hours what can you earn in that week?" Afterwards I ask how many such weeks are worked during the year, so as not to mislead the Committee into thinking that they work 52 weeks when they only work 44; but during those 44 weeks that they do work they earn a certain sum of money per week, which is stated in the Table.

29081. Lord Clinton.] Your average that you give there is the average throughout the year, supposing he worked thus throughout the year?

Yes. A year of 40 or more weeks, as the case may be.

29082. Chairman.] Your columns are headed: "What are your working hours per week?" "How many garments can you make in a full week without working overtime?" That is to say, according to the first column; and then, thirdly, "How many weeks are you employed in a year?" Then your answers that you have pencilled in are founded upon those three columns?

Upon those three columns, what he would earn during those number of weeks in the year.

29083. Out of those averages are there no deductions of any kind to be taken?

Yes; out of that there are the deductions to be taken for the prime cost of the machine, for the repairs of that machine during the year, fuel for the fire, for the proportion of rent which the room would have to bear for the house, light, and silk and thread only in one or two instances.

29084. The silk and thread are generally supplied by the employer?

They are generally supplied by the employer. This (*handing in another Table*) is a continuation of the same. This is the February Table, that being the January one; the rent is stated in that; that is the difference only.

29085. Then we are to take these as the averages, subject to those deductions. Subject to those conditions. (*See Appendix.*)

29086. I think you said that in your opinion all works should be stopped at 10 o'clock?

I think that is a fair hour, unless they have the day and the night sets as they do in the iron trade.

29087. Practically I suppose if that were not the case it would be impossible for you to enforce the Act in the case of a woman and her daughter, against the daughter if the mother were allowed to work late at night?

I think, while we are on that subject, if your Lordship would permit me, I should like to say that the present Act, although anyone reading it would think the inspector had sufficient power to cope with the evils of overtime, is altogether short; for instance, a tailoress can be kept or a machinist can be kept by a tailor until 10 o'clock at night 48 times during the year, but, as another witness has said, we have no check; we can take a declaration certainly as to the number of nights they have worked, but there is a great deal of trouble in it. What I would urge would be that the overtime notice should be posted at a certain time at night, so that that should be evidence that it was the intention of the occupier to work overtime that night; not for him to say to an inspector of factories, "Oh, yes, this is one of our overtime nights"; but if he does not go, not to send the notice to him. That is very important.

29088. You think that the notice should be posted before the overtime is commenced?

It should be posted at eight o'clock, or before eight o'clock; that is when the overtime begins. There would be a complete check then; because if the inspector

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[Continued.]

inspector went in and found the women at work, the overtime not having been posted, the case would be clear, and there would be no defence. Now there is the excuse, "This is one of the nights."

29089. Do you think that the Act requires modification or alteration in any other way?

I think where employment takes place, I would draw the line there; employment of any kind, man, woman, or child; the workshops should be registered, the same as a factory is now.

29090. Do you mean where more than one person is employed?

Wherever there is employment; that is according to the Workshops' Act now. The employment of young persons or women, if only one, brings that workshop under the Act.

29091. Do you mean that it is employment if a woman employs only herself?

No, it is not employment then; employment is to employ one person or two; I should not go so far as to interfere with the individual right of a man or a woman.

29092. Lord Clinton.] Do you think that the workpeople should be registered as well as the house; that the workman or workwoman should be registered as a tailor or tailoress, as well as the house?

No, I think not.

29093. We have heard a good deal of out-workers, and you say you are not very well able to find out where they work; would it not help you very much if each workman or workwoman were registered as a tailor or tailoress?

I think that would find a lot of unnecessary work for inspectors.

29094. It would enable you, would it not, to find out where work is carried out?

By the one hand only.

29095. But there might be more than one hand working?

Then it should be compulsory for the house to be registered.

29096. But do not you think it would help you if the workpeople were registered themselves?

No, I do not think so. I think if the work-room were registered where any employment was taking place it would materially assist us, but not for the workpeople to be registered.

29097. You do not think that would help you?

No.

29098. Of course if they were registered they would register their address?

I am afraid that an inspector would lose a lot of time in going to see if employment was carried on; I would make the onus fall upon the occupier of the work-room.

29099. Chairman.] Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee? I should like to just speak about the moral character of the tailors.

29100. Yes?

I must bear witness, so far as my experience goes, as an inspector for six years in one town, that I have found nothing of an immoral character, nor seen anything of an immoral character, in a tailoring shop at Sheffield. I think in justice to the men I should make that statement. I have never noticed it.

29101. Are you using the word "moral" in its extended sense?

Yes.

29102. What was complained of was the drinking and bad language?

There was another reference, I thought, to moral character. With respect to drunkenness, and the drunken tailors of Sheffield, I have never seen a drunken tailor on the premises, and I do not think that they are more drunken, as far as

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[*Continued.*]

my experience goes, than any other class of workmen. I have known drunken tailors and I have known drunken master tailors in Sheffield; and I thought it was a reflection that the men really did not deserve. I do not deny the statement of the witness that his workpeople were drunken on a certain day. Then with respect to the out-working system, this began in Sheffield in the year 1865. The reason for the out-working system was the introduction of machinery, that is sewing machines, and the employers at the time, I am informed, wanted to make a larger reduction than the workmen thought was right, in consequence of this machine work, and hence the quarrel, and the out-working system came into existence.

29103. I do not quite follow you there, how the out-working system originated in this quarrel?

There would be disputes between certain workshops or occupiers of workshops, and the union and tailors would give out employment to men who would do their work at their homes, and that would commence the out-working system. So far as the women vest hands are concerned, I never came in contact with a more respectable body of women, and I would not have that undone on any consideration, for they earn 16 s., 18 s., and 20 s. per week in their own homes; and the conditions, the sanitary conditions, and their surroundings, are excellent.

29104. Do you find any distinction, in your experience, between the manners and morals of the men working as out-workers and the men working as in-workers?

No, I find them men and women generally, and I have seen nothing objectionable.

29105. You do not agree with the evidence which has been given to the effect that the out-workers are more respectable men than the men working in the shops?

I should decidedly disagree with it.

29106. Have you anything else to say?

No.

29107. I may just ask you this before you go, as regards Sheffield: you have given us some very valuable evidence about the cutlery and the tailoring; do you think that this sweating, so called, exists in other trades to any great extent?

Only those trades where the evidence has been taken, I have found it nowhere else; that is, in the cutlery trades, in the various branches which were inquired into, and to a slight extent in the tailoring trades.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. WILLIAM LEGGATT, having been re-called, is further Examined.

29108. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you desire to add something to your evidence:

I should like to say that I had no reference to the immoral character of the men so far as immorality, generally speaking, is concerned. But with reference to something which was mentioned by Mr. Gall, the secretary of the men's society in connection with the contracts given in the town for the clothing in connection with the servants of the Duke of Norfolk; he spoke about the contract having been given previously to a great firm who paid a good price, and of course charged a fair price to his lordship. That went on for several years, till last year (I should say this last year), this contract was put up to competition, and our firm, among the others, were asked to compete in the contract, and it was specially stipulated that no sweating should be done in the work; the prices were to be given, and no sweating was to be done. As a matter of fact, the contract was awarded to a firm at the lowest figure, and the work was sweated to my personal knowledge.

29109. Do

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Mr. LEGGATT.

[*Continued.*

29109. Do you mean that the work was put out to be done off the premises of the firm taking the contract?

It was given to a man to make off the premises, certainly, of the master, and he sublet the work to other workmen, who, of course, did the work. He might have done a good deal of the work himself, but he also sublet portions of it. Of course I could give you the figures, the prices that they were quoted for, but I do not suppose that is necessary.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next,
at Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 23^o Maii, 1889.

L O R D S P R E S E N T :

Earl of DERBY.
Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.
Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and
Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.
Lord MONKSWELL.
Lord THRING.
Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. ANDREW THOMAS ROOK, is called in ; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows :

29110. *Chairman.*] You are the Chief Sanitary Inspector at Manchester, are you not ?

My title is Superintendent of the Nuisance Department.

29111. And what are your duties ?

My duties are to look after the sanitary condition of the city as regards nuisances and drainage, and to carry out the Food and Drugs Act, and the Canal Boats Act, and to look after the lodging-houses. There are two classes of lodging-houses ; the one that I have to deal with is under the 90th section of the Public Health Act ; not a common lodging-house.

29112. You would have power to visit any house, would you not ?

Well, of course we have no power of entry into a private house without the consent of the tenant, unless we believe in the existence of a nuisance in that house ; then, if they refuse us admission, we should have to apply to a justice for an order.

29113. What does your staff consist of ; how many assistants have you ?

I have 14 district inspectors. I have three inspectors to look after the smoke nuisance ; I have two to carry out the Food and Drugs Act ; and I have one who carries out the duties of canal boat inspector and night visitor of lodging-houses.

29114. Then you have 14 to help you in the matter of sanitation ?

That is so.

29115. How long have you held that position ?

Over 27 years.

29116. Did you cause any special inquiry to be made in 1887 ?

About 12 months ago, in consequence of some remarks in the "Lancet" newspaper, Sir John Harwood, who was then mayor, directed me to make inquiries as to a certain district in Manchester. That district was chiefly inhabited by Jews. We consider it the worst part of the city with regard to anything that may be defective, or in an insauitary condition as regards the workshops.

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Mr. Rook.

[Continued.]

29117. What is that district?

It embraces what we call Strangeways and a part of Cheetham; it is entirely in Cheetham, but the lower part of it is called Strangeways.

29118. What was the general result of your investigations in that district?

That was given, I think, in a speech by the Chairman of the Health Committee, the present mayor, Mr. Alderman Batty; it was stated in the council chamber.

29119. Did you make a special report, or anything of that kind?

Yes, on that particular district; and I rather think that report was sent to the Home Office; I am not quite sure.

29120. Will you tell me what the general result of your investigation was?

The general result was that we found many of the workshops required cleaning. Some of them were deficient in sanitary accommodation, closet accommodation; some were slightly overcrowded we thought.

29121. But would you say in general that their condition was fairly good?

Fairly good for the class of people that were using them. Of course the Jews are a very dirty lot of people, the lower order, and require a good deal of looking after; but taking them altogether we found them in a very fair condition, much better than we anticipated from what we had read in the paper.

29122. You spoke about these Jews being, in your opinion, a very dirty set of people; Jews in this class of life, I presume, you mean. Would you say that these workshops in which they work are worse than the general average of workshops of the same kind and class where Christians work?

Decidedly.

29123. More crowded?

More crowded.

29124. And less clean?

And less clean.

29125. Was any action taken in the matter?

Not at that time; but shortly after Mr Redgrave, I think it was, called upon me, and Mr. King called upon me, and had an interview with Sir John Harwood and the Chairman of the Health Committee. The result of that interview was that I undertook with my men to make an inspection of the whole of the workshops in the city.

29126. When was that, last year?

That, I think, would be about March this year.

29127. Then you made a special inquiry into the whole of the workshops and factories on the register?

Not the factories.

29128. The workshops?

The workshops. I draw the line at factories; I thought it was not advisable to include them in the inquiry.

29129. What do you mean by workshops?

I mean workshops used by tailors, mackintosh manufacturers, slipper makers, and so on.

29130. Those are workshops used by various trades; but I mean what have you in your mind when you say "workshops"; do you mean family workshops also, domestic workshops?

I do not include dressmakers in that; people who work in their own homes, perhaps members of the same family, with one outsider. We did not go into that class at all, but we inspected all in connection with lodging-houses.

29131. But

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[Continued.]

29131. But not places where members of the same family were working?
No.

29132. And what was the result of your inquiry; what have you discovered?

We found 67 that were unclean; we found 182 which we thought deficient in closet accommodation, and five were deficient in ventilation, or overcrowded.

29133. How many shops did you visit altogether?

Between 400 and 500; somewhere about 420, to the best of my recollection.

29134. But there must be many more workshops in Manchester than that are there not?

Yes, a lot more workshops. I say I do not include bakehouses or factories, or bread manufactories.

29135. I presume you visited places where people were working in trades that had been complained about?

That is so; chiefly that class. And the result was that with the exception of the part of the City which I named first; that is, that part occupied by the Jews chiefly, we found them in very good condition indeed, much better than I anticipated by a long way.

29136. What are these Jews chiefly employed upon?

The majority of them in the tailoring trade. The mackintosh manufacture is now spread over a larger number of people than formerly. Formerly, I remember, it used to be in the hands of very few; five or six large firms; at the present time there are a large number of Jews employed; from five up to 15 or 20 people being employed in each place.

29137. Are the Jews principally foreigners?

Principally so.

29138. Is their number increasing in Manchester?

I have no certain data to go upon in regard to that; but I should think it is from personal observation.

29139. Largely increasing, do you think?

Not largely.

29140. Are there more coming from abroad now than used to formerly?

They have increased the last five or six years immensely, but I do not think they are coming into the town quite as fast at the present time.

29141. Have any cases come before your notice where infectious diseases have been carried by means of clothing?

I have not heard of any.

29142. Is it likely that such is the case?

You see in Manchester medical men are obliged to notify us in all cases of infectious disease; and in any cases arising in any workshop or in any dwelling-house where goods are made up, we should take immediate measures to shut the place up for the time being, till we were satisfied it was safe for them to carry on the business again.

29143. What means have you of finding out where work is carried on?

Nothing beyond the inspector's own observation in going over his district.

29144. I mean if the medical officer reports to you that a case of small-pox is in such-and-such a house, would you know whether the people there were engaged in making up clothing or shirts or mantles, or whatever it may be?

Inquiry would be made by the officer who visited the place.

29145. Do you mean that it is the duty of the medical officer not only to report to you every case of infectious disease, but also to find out whether there is any work carried on in the house?

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Mr. Rook.

[*Continued.*]

It is the duty of the medical officer attending the patient to notify to the medical officer of health cases of infectious disease. That comes to my department, and one of my own men then visits the premises and makes all necessary inquiry.

29146. How many of these reports do you get in a year, do you suppose?
All infectious diseases we get to know of, and every case is visited.

29147. Can you tell me the number last year?

I really could not give you the number; it must be a large number, a very large number. Scarlet fever has been very prevalent in Manchester the last few months, and diphtheria has been bad.

29148. You think the system is so perfect that it is impossible, or at any rate very improbable, that work is carried on in houses or rooms where infectious diseases exist?

I do not say that; because I do not believe we get notification of all cases. A person may have a mild attack of disease, and not call in a doctor at all. In that case we should know nothing about it.

29149. But if you do get a notification from the doctor, I understand you to say that you always send one of your staff to make inquiry into the case?

In every case.

29150. And that he would ascertain whether any work was carried on in that place; and, if so, what power would you have of stopping the work?

I do not know what our powers would be to stop it; but we have found the people very willing to do what we required. We have never met yet with a case where there has been a refusal. I do know that, in some cases, we have stopped the selling of milk for weeks.

29151. Have you ever stopped work or tailoring or shirt-making or anything of that kind?

I have never had a case of that sort?

29152. Do the sanitary authorities and the factory inspectors work cordially together, in your experience; do they help each other?

Up to the period I have named we had always been under the impression that we had no control over workshops, with the exception of bakehouses; those were put under our control by the 1883 Act. Previous to 1878 I think they were under the control of the police. In 1878 I think they were again put under the Factory Acts. In 1883 they were taken from the Factory Acts and put under the control of the sanitary authorities again.

29153. What I mean is, if the factory inspectors came across some insanitary condition that did not come within their province and control, would they report them to the sanitary authorities; and in the same way if the sanitary authorities came across cases where the Factory Acts were evaded, would they report the matter to the factory inspectors?

I have reported cases where girls have been employed in bakehouses; a large number of cases; it is our duty to do so under the Act; but not anything in regard to workshops generally until this period that I have named. I think before Mr. King left the Manchester district I sent several cases to him, but not prior to 12 months ago.

29154. Do you think it would be a good thing if the factory inspector had more sanitary power and the sanitary inspectors had power, or it was part of their duty, to report any infraction of the Factory Acts?

I think that the sanitary officers might render very great assistance to factory inspectors if they only had the power to enter; the same power as the factory inspector has; and without any additional expense to the authority. For instance, my own men are going over the ground every day, and it would be no trouble at all for them to go into every workshop; and, in going over the district, to see that everything is going on right.

29155. How

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Mr. Rook.

[Continued.]

29155. How do you find out when a man starts work in a workshop?

We have no means of ascertaining that, only by the inspector's own observation.

29156. Do you think it is probable that work is carried on in a great many workshops that do not come under your notice?

It is not probable that it is carried on to a very large extent without coming under our notice; and not possible.

29157. I think you said that, in your opinion, the sanitary condition of the workshops and workrooms in this quarter mainly inhabited by Jews is very fairly good; can you give the Committee any information as to the prices that these Jewish workers get paid, and so on?

I have no knowledge whatever; I never inquired into that question. Would you allow me to make one observation with regard to these cases which I have named as to the closet accommodation; the number of cases which I gave you just now as being reported for having insufficient closet accommodation. Those matters were referred to the proper department of the corporation to be dealt with; and, owing to the illness of our officer of health (and he has since died), the thing remained in abeyance, and not much has been done. Some few cases have been attended to; but now we have a new officer of health appointed, and I expect they will all be taken up and dealt with.

29158. Lord *Sandhurst*.] You said that there was no great number of these immigrants that came into Manchester; foreign Jews?

Not at the present time.

29159. Have you any means of judging whether there are many immigrants into the town from the country districts round Manchester?

No; only from general observation; we have no register, or anything of that kind. Our lodging-house register, I think, is a good guide for anything of that sort, for it is almost certain that wherever you find Jews you will find lodging-houses; they occupy rooms either furnished or unfurnished, and they generally come under our notice in that way.

29160. But you have no means of judging about the country labouring population coming to the town?

Not at all.

29161. *Chairman*.] Is there anything else you wish to say?

No; I have nothing more to add.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Miss RACHEL OPPENHEIM, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

29162. *Chairman*.] ARE you a native of Manchester?

No; I was born in Germany.

29163. What is your business?

A tailor.

29164. Do you work in a factory or a workshop?

In a workshop.

29165. How many people are employed there?

About 22.

29166. That would be a large shop, I presume?

Yes.

29167. What do they make?

Coats and waistcoats.

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[Continued.]

29168. No trousers?

He makes some trousers of his own, but he gives out other trousers to be made.

29169. Does he make all his own coats and vests?

Not all his own; he makes some on his own place.

29170. What would your employer call himself; is he a master tailor, or what?

He is a master tailor.

29171. Does he make for some other firm?

Sometimes he makes customers' work, but not much.

29172. Then, what is most of his work; is it ready-made clothes, or what?

It is stitched work, and machine-bound and hand-bound work.

29173. Is that ready-made, or for orders?

It is for stock, the machine-bound; and, for orders, he makes hand-bound.

29174. Then, he makes for other firms in the town?

Yes, for the warehouse.

29175. He works for the warehouse, and some of the work he makes for the warehouse he gets made by somebody else?

He makes suits, vests and coats; he works in his own place, and trousers he gives out to a woman to make.

29176. How is the work carried on in the shop; does the master do any of the cutting himself?

He fits; another man helps him to fit.

29177. And does he get the work ready cut from the warehouse?

Yes.

29178. All of it?

Yes.

29179. Then what do you have to do?

I am a tailor and help to do tailoring. I bind and fell, and do everything.

29180. How long have you been working there?

This is the second year. I have been working seven years in the tailoring; but I have not worked all the seven years there.

29181. When you began seven years ago in the tailoring, what did you do first?

Felling.

29182. What did you get paid then?

I was working before for my own father, and my father gave it up, and I came to Manchester.

29183. You worked for your father for some time?

Yes, seven years ago; the first time I went out it was to Mr. [], which it was about five years ago.

29184. What did you earn then when you first went out?

Thirteen shillings sometimes, and sometimes 12 s., and sometimes 10 s. a week.

29185. What kind of work were you doing then?

The same work as I do now.

29186. Were you paid by time then, or by piece?

I got paid by time.

29187. You are paid by time now?

No; piecework now.

29188. Can

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[Continued.]

29188. Can you tell me what you get paid by piece-work?
That is the list (*handing it in*).

29189. These are the prices that you get paid, are they?
Yes.

22190. Machine-bound jacket and vest, 3 *d.*; is that right?
Yes.

29191. Hand-bound shooter, 5½ *d.*; hand-bound jacket, 5 *d.*; machine-bound shooters, 3 *d.*; machine-bound jackets, 2½ *d.*; machine-bound jacket, 2 *d.*; stitched shooter, 1½ *d.*; stitched jacket, 1 *d.*; 12 boys' jackets for 9 *d.*; machine-bound shooter and vest, 3½ *d.*; that is correct, is it?
Yes.

29192. Can you earn about the same wages at all this kind of work, or is one better than the other?

One is better than the other; it is not all alike.

29193. What is the best; which pays you the best?
The 5½ *d.*

29194. The higher the price you get the more wages you can earn?
Of course.

29195. You get 5½ *d.* for a hand-bound shooter?
Yes.

29196. And what do you do to it?

I do it all round, and after I fell it over, and fell the arm-holes, and fell the pockets; that takes me two hours.

29197. That you have to do for 5½ *d.*?
Yes.

29198. And it takes you about two hours to do it?
Yes.

29199. What is the worst paid?
Jacket and vest, 3 *d.*

29200. That is machine-bound jacket and vest?
Yes.

29201. How long would it take you to do one of those?
About an hour and a-half.

29202. How many hours a day do you work in the shop?

I come at eight, and I work till eight, and sometimes if it is very busy I have to take three or four hours' work to do at home.

29203. The regular hours are eight to eight?
Eight to eight.

29204. How long have you for your dinner?
An hour.

29205. For tea?
Sometimes I take half an hour if I have got time; and if I have not got time I do not take half an hour for tea.

29206. Do you have your meals in the shop?
Not the dinner; the dinner I have at home.

29207. Do you work from eight to eight every day of the week?
Yes; only Thursday till ten.

29208. From eight in the morning till ten at night?
Yes; only if it is busy I must take home some work.

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[*Continued.*]

29209. The work that you take home, do you get paid at the same rate as in the shop?

It is piece-work.

29210. Do you get paid the same price?

The same price; not a farthing extra.

29211. On Fridays, up to what time do you work?

On Fridays, sometimes till three and sometimes till four, and on the short days in the winter I work till twelve or one, or two o'clock in the day.

29212. Then about Saturday?

I only get wages on Saturdays; they are paid at one o'clock; I do not do anything on Saturday.

29213. Is any work done on Sunday?

Yes; if it is busy they work from eight till four, and if there is a lot of work to do, we have to take home some coats as well.

29214. Are they all Jews in the shop?

There is one woman that sews buttons that is a Christian, and two lads are Christians.

29215. I suppose you have a busy time in the year and a slack time in the year?

We have twice in the year busy times; from our Passover till Whit-week it is the busy time.

29216. Just as much as you can do?

As much as we can manage; and in winter time there is a good holiday. Till Christmas it is very busy, and after Christmas it is slack again. We can make a living in slack time; we only earn a few shillings to get our food.

29217. You can only make a bare living in slack times, you mean?

Yes; sometimes people cannot make a living.

29218. How many months in the year are you busy, and how many slack?

It is about six months busy and six months slack.

29219. Do you know at all how many hours a week you would be working in the busy time?

We cannot count. We come in at eight o'clock in the morning and finish at eight at night, and after that we would take a few coats home and work three or four hours.

29220. And in the slack time, do you know how many hours a week you would be working?

We cannot tell. Sometimes through the day we would be sitting idle, and at night, when coats are got ready, we have to do it to please the warehouse and to please the master.

29221. And you have to sit waiting for work, whether you have anything to do or not?

Yes, many a time.

29222. Do you know what days of the week your master gets his work from the warehouse?

The master gets the work on Saturday morning.

29223. And does he generally get enough to last him for the next week?

He gets orders twice or three times a day in the busy time.

29224. Does it often happen that there is a great deal of work to be made at the end of the week and very little at the beginning of the week?

Yes; at the beginning of the week there is not much to do; only from Wednesday till Friday we have to kill ourselves to manage the work.

29225. What is the reason for that?

If

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[Continued.]

If it comes Monday, the customer goes into the shop and he orders a suit, and after he tries it on it takes a day. Tuesday they cut it out, and Wednesday they send it in to us; then afterwards we get busy.

29226. Then I understand you that you work overtime in the shop just when you are busy, sometimes?

Not in the shop.

29227. I thought you said you worked up till 10 o'clock?

We work from eight till ten on Thursdays in busy times; but not in the middle of the week.

29228. Your work overtime in the shop sometimes, and besides that take home work to do?

Yes.

29229. Are you obliged to take it, whether you like it or not?

I do not like it, especially in the summer time with the gas; but you are bound to take it.

29230. What do you think you can earn in a week in the busy time?

In the very busy time I can earn 25 s.

29231. Are there any deductions to come out of that?

I keep two hands, me and my sister and another one, and sometimes we earn 2 l. 10 s., 2 l. 15 s., and sometimes 1 l. 10 s., and we share it all between us.

29232. You have your sister, you said, to help you?

Yes, a sister and a stranger.

29233. Who work with you in the shop?

Yes, in the shop where I work.

29234. Do they live with you?

No; they live separate.

29235. But they work in a shop with you?

In a shop with me together.

29236. And you share your earnings?

All the money we share.

29237. Are they working under you?

They are working under me.

29238. And you share the earnings in a certain proportion?

Yes.

29239. I suppose you get more than the others?

Because I am quicker.

29240. That, I suppose, is an arrangement you have made between yourselves; nothing to do with the master of the shop?

No; nothing to do with the master.

29241. The master pays you, I suppose?

The master pays me and I pay them.

29242. You told us, I think, what you three can earn in a busy time; what do you suppose you three can earn in a slack time in a week?

It is according to the work; sometimes I have 10 s. for myself, sometimes 8 s., sometimes 7 s. or 6 s. a week for me alone.

29243. Then I think I understand you that in bad times you earn for yourself 6 s., 7 s., 8 s., or 10 s. a week, and in good times you can earn as high as 25 s. for yourself?

Yes.

29244. Have you any idea what the average for a week all through the year would be?

That I cannot tell you. The master has all the wages in his book.

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[*Continued.*]

29245. How many tailors are there in the shop doing the same kind of work as you do ?

Four.

29246. Can you earn as much as any of them, or more ?

I earn more than they do.

29247. You call yourself a stock hand ?

Yes ; I have been seven years in the trade ; it is time I should be quick.

29248. What I mean is, do you think you can earn more than most other tailors doing the same kind of work ?

There are some females that can earn more than I can.

29249. And some less ?

Yes ; some can earn less.

29250. Are there many of them that can earn more than you ?

Not at our place.

29251. Are there any men in the shop at all ?

There are 12 men besides the master and two little lads.

29252. What do the lads do ?

They go with the goods to the warehouse, and do the basting.

29253. What do the men do ; pressing ?

There are three pressers, four machine hands, and five that do the tailoring.

29254. You learned your trade from your father ?

Yes.

29255. Do you know whether girls often work for nothing for a time, in order to learn their trade ?

There are plenty that do.

29256. How long would they work for nothing ?

Sometimes a month. I have had a sister who worked nearly two months for nothing, and after that she got 2 s. and 3 s. and 4 s. a week till she could get larger wages.

29257. How long did it take her to earn, say, 10 s. or 12 s. a week ?

I do not know about that ; only I know she does for 3 ½ d. a dozen, hose.

29258. How do they settle these prices ; does the master settle them with you ?

Yes.

29259. Does he pay the same prices to all the women tailors ?

Yes, he pays to all the females alike.

29260. Have you ever worked in any other shop ?

I have worked in many shops ; but I cannot remember them ; it is a long while ago.

29261. This shop that you are working in now, is it clean and comfortable ?

Middling.

29262. Plenty of air ?

Yes.

29263. And the other shops that you worked in, were they generally clean and comfortable ?

They were clean and whitewashed. We have got a room by ourselves in the shop where I am now ; we are not together with the males.

29264. Is that the case in the other shops too ?

Not in many ; there are some shops where they work together with the men. At our place we work in a separate room.

29265. You

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[Continued.]

29265. You do not complain about the shops you have worked in being not clean?

No.

29266. Lord *Monkswell*.] How many foreign Jews are working with you? Do you mean men or females?

29267. Both?

They are nearly all foreigners; there are very few that were born in England.

29268. Is it the case generally, do you think, throughout Manchester, that there are more foreign born Jews than native born Jews in the tailoring trade?

It is everywhere alike.

29269. You think there are more foreign Jews?

Yes.

29270. *Chairman*.] Do you think that there is any danger of your losing employment because of giving evidence here?

I think I shall lose it

29271. Why do you think so?

Because the master is vexed that I told the right price about the coats.

29272. Do you think you will have any difficulty in getting work, or that you will be able to get work somewhere else?

I do not know. A month from yesterday I am going to get married, so I do not know if I will go to work after or not.

29273. It does not so much matter to you whether you lose your place or not?

I am sorry if I lose the place because I want a few shillings to make my wedding up. I have parents who are very poor themselves and they cannot help me; I have to help them a little.

29274. You have one sister?

I have two sisters working; I have one sister who has been ill, it will be a year soon, and the doctor has sent her to Buxton because she has a bad leg; and she costs us a few shillings; and my mother is very poor.

29275. Does your mother work too?

No she cannot work.

29276. Is your father alive?

He is in Manchester, but he lives separate.

29277. One of your sisters is working with you?

Yes.

29278. And is the other working in the same trade as yourself?

She does buttonholes in a separate place.

29279. What would she earn, do you know at all?

Sometimes, if she works hard, she earns 15 s., 20 s., a guinea, if she works hard.

29280. Does she do any work at home?

Sometimes.

29281. I suppose her case is like your case, that sometimes she is busy and sometimes she is not busy?

Yes; our trade is not always the same; sometimes it is busy and sometimes slack; sometimes we go many days idle and then we are very busy.

29282. Does this sister live with you?

No; she lives with my mother; I live in a lodging.

29283. When you take work home have you to sit up late to do it and burn gas?

Of course.

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[*Continued.*]

29284. You do not get extra pay for that?
Not a farthing.

29285. Do you have to find thread?
No, the master finds thread. I cannot find my own thread at that price.

29286. Are the prices the same now that they were a year or two ago?
Yes.

29287. Just the same?
Yes.

29288. As three or four years ago?
Yes.

29289. Is there anything you would like to say to the Committee?
Well, I have got a lot to say. I am not sure that I am able to speak all, because I cannot speak much English.

29290. We can understand you very well if you have anything you want to say about the trade?

I would like that the trade should be a little easier than it is now; that women should not work so hard.

29291. You have to work too long, you think?

Yes. If you came in the morning you would see the poor girls carrying the bundles of coats back to the factory.

29292. Do you mean that the weight is too heavy for them?
A great deal.

29293. Do you know how much the bundles would weigh?
I have not weighed them.

29294. They are very heavy, you say?

Sometimes I carry coats for three or four hours' work; about six or seven coats; and sometimes I carry two coats for the same hours, according to the different prices. If I get $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ I take two; if I can get $3d.$ or $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, I must take a lot more; I must take six or seven.

29295. Do you have to carry your own work to the warehouse?

If I take work home I have to carry it myself from the place to my house, or from my house to the place.

29296. But you have not got to take it from the shop to the warehouse?
Not to the warehouse; from the shop to my own house.

29297. You live some distance, do you?
Yes.

29298. How far do you live?
It is about half-a-mile.

29299. Then you think the hours are too long, and you think the girls ought not to be allowed to carry these bundles?

It is very long. I wish there were longer days and shorter hours.

29300. And do you think the prices are good enough?

You know quite well yourselves whether they are good or bad.

29301. You say that you were born in Germany. When did you come to England?

Going on for eight years ago. My father was here a year and a-half before, and brought us over, me and my mother and the little children.

29302. Where did you come to?
To Liverpool.

29303. You stopped in Liverpool for some time?

I stopped about three years, and it is going on for five years since I have been in Manchester.

29304. Is

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Miss OPPENHEIM.

[*Continued.*]

29304. Is your father a tailor by trade ?
He is a tailor, but he works very little.

29305. Was he a tailor in Germany ?
He was a master tailor in Germany, and he was a master tailor in Liverpool, but now he has got down.

29306. Did you work as a tailor in Germany, too.
No, I was young then ; I did not work at anything.

29307. Is there anything else you would like to say ?
What could I say more ?

Chairman.] I think you have given your evidence very well. We will not trouble you for any more.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

ISAAC SMOLENSKY, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows (*through an Interpreter*) :

29308. *Chairman.*] ARE you a tailor by trade ?
Yes, a tailor.

29309. In Manchester ?
In Manchester.

29310. Are you working in a large shop ?
No.

29311. How many hands are there ?
Two hands besides the master.

29312. I understand that there is a master and yourself, and one other ?
Yes.

29313. One other man ?
One other man and myself.

29314. No women ?
No women.

29315. What kind of work do you do ?
Customer work.

29316. Your master, I suppose, does work for a warehouse ?
No ; for private shops.

29317. Does he do all his work in the shop, or does he send any out ?
All in the shop.

29318. All the goods you make are for order ; bespoke goods ?
Yes.

29319. Do you get paid by the week, or by the piece ?
By the piece.

29320. Do you make coats, and vests, and trousers ?
Only coats.

29321. Where are the vests and trousers made ?
I do not know.

29322. Can you tell us what you get a pair for various coats ?
Four shillings a job.

29323. What kind of coat ?
Shooting coats, or jackets, the same price.

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ISAAC SMOLENSKY.

[Continued.]

29324. You get the same price for every kind of coat ?
If it is hand-bound it is 4 s. 6 d. ; if it is stitched it is 4 s.

29325. How many can you make in a day ?
One a day.

29326. What are the hours of work ?
I work from five in the morning till two at night.

29327. You begin work at five o'clock in the morning, and you go on till two o'clock the next morning ?
Yes.

29328. Do you work on Monday ?
We work from Sunday night through the week

29329. What time do you go to work on Monday ?
Six o'clock, or five o'clock ; the same time as on other days.

29330. Do you live in the shop you work in ?
No.

29331. What time do you go home on Monday ?
Sometimes at twelve at night, sometimes at one.

29332. Do you mean that you work sometimes 20 hours and 21 hours in the shop at a stretch ?

Yes. I cannot afford to work shorter hours. I am a slow worker ; I cannot make money quick, so I have to stop late at night. Sometimes I have to make to try on at nine o'clock in the morning, so I have to stop up.

29333. Do you know at all how many hours you have worked in one week ?
I work every day just the same hours.

29334. Do you work on Sunday
Yes.

29335. And not on Saturday ?
No.

29336. Then what time do you have for your meals ?
Any time I can get.

29337. I suppose you eat in the shop, do you ?
No ; I go home.

29338. And the other man in the shop ; does he earn about the same as you ?

He earns twice as much, because he has been longer in Manchester.

29339. How long have you been in Manchester ?
Two years, and a little more.

29340. Where did you come from ?
From Roumania.

29341. Where did you land ?
I came straight to Manchester. I came first to Hull.

29342. And what made you go to Manchester ?
I wanted to go to America ; and from Hamburg they sent me to Hull.

29343. Why did you go to Manchester from Hull ; had you got any friends in Manchester ?

I had too little money to go to America, so they sent me on to Manchester.

29344. Who sent you on to Manchester ?
The ship company.

29345. Where did you embark ; where did you get on board the ship ?
At Hamburg.

29346. When

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ISAAC SMOLENSKY.

[Continued.]

29346. When you got into the ship at Hamburg, did you think the ship was going to take you to America?

No; I knew I was going to Manchester.

29347. What I want to find out, if I can, is why you picked out Manchester rather than any other town?

They told me that Manchester was the very best place for me.

29348. Who told you?

People in Hamburg.

29349. Were you working as a tailor at your home in Roumania?

I was a dressmaker there.

29350. And when did you leave Roumania?

Two years and a couple of months ago.

29351. You say you left Roumania more than two years ago, and you went straight to Hamburg, and from Hamburg straight to Manchester?

Yes.

29352. Who told you about Manchester in Roumania?

They told me in Hamburg that there was a place in Manchester where I could get work.

29353. Why did you go to Hamburg at all from Roumania?

Because it was the place where I could get a ship to come here.

29354. Did anybody tell you in Roumania that you could get plenty of work in England?

Yes, they told me so.

29355. Had you any friends in England when you arrived?

No.

29356. Did you go to the Jewish Board of Guardians in Hull?

No; in Manchester.

29357. Did they give you any acceptance?

Whenever I am short in anything I go to the Jewish Board of Guardians.

29358. How did you get money enough to come to Manchester from home?

I had a house at home, and sold it.

29359. Did you bring your family with you?

Yes.

29360. Wife and children?

Wife and six children; two were born in England.

29361. Does your wife work at the same trade?

No; she cannot work.

29362. I suppose you expect to be able to work a good deal more in the course of time, do not you?

I am not strong enough to earn more.

29363. Do your children work at any trade?

No; they are all little children.

29364. Do you mean you have to support yourself and wife and six children on the wages that you have told us you can earn?

Yes.

29365. You said you could make one coat in a day, and that you got paid 4 s.?

Yes; and then I have to pay away for button-holes, and felling, and pressing, and I have only about 3 s. left.

29366. That is to say, you can earn 3 s. a day for six days?

Yes.

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ISAAC SMOLENSKY.

[Continued.]

29367. Can you earn that all the year round?
No; in the busy time.

29368. What can you earn in the slack time?
In the slack time there are plenty of weeks I earn 6 s., 8 s.; sometimes nothing.

29369. You have told the Committee what seems to me a very extraordinary fact, that you work as much as 20 hours a day every day?
Every day.

29370. Except the Saturday when you do not work at all?
Except the Saturday.

29371. Lord *Thring*.] What do you get for dinner?
Anything; whatever my wife makes.

29372. Do you get meat?
A bit, sometimes.

29373. What do you generally get?
Whatever she gets ready I eat.

29374. *Chairman*.] What do you eat most of, tea:
Bread and tea and meat.

29375. Earl of *Derby*.] Let me be sure that I have got your statement correct. Do you say that you work 20 hours a day every day except the Saturday?
Every day. Sometimes I have to wait for a garment all day and then when the master brings it from the shop at 8 o'clock I have to stop up all night to make it ready for the morning.

29376. But in that case you have not been working all day; you have only been waiting?

In the daytime they keep me to make try-ons.

29377. Do you say that on six nights of the week you have only four hours' sleep altogether?

Only four hours or three hours in the night.

29378. Lord *Monkswell*.] How many months do you work 20 hours a day?
From before Passover till after Whit-week.

29379. That is about 10 weeks?
Yes.

29380. And the remainder of the year you cannot get as much work as that?

Sometimes I have a bit, and sometimes I have not.

29381. So that for 10 weeks at a stretch you work for 20 hours a day but for the remainder of the year you do not at anytime work as much as that; or do you sometimes have to work 20 hours at other times as well?

When I have not enough work, I work a little easier.

29382. But during the rest of the year, excluding these 10 weeks, how often would you work six days for 20 hours a day?

Sometimes there is a day or so easier than the other, so I have to make it up on the other day.

29383. Lord *Thring*.] How many hours a day do you work when you lived in Roumania?

Fourteen hours in a day.

29384. How much did you earn in Roumania?
A Napoleon a week, 20 francs.

29385. Then you were worse off in Manchester than you were in Roumania?
Yes, it was better for me to be there than here.

29386. Why

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ISAAC SMOLENSKY.

[Continued.]

29386. Why do you not return to Roumania?

I have got no money to go back.

29387. Do you dissuade your countrymen from coming?

Yes, I have told them they should not come here.

29388. Would you go back if the money was found for you?

Yes.

29389. *Chairman.*] Are there many people that come from your neighbourhood in Roumania to England?

There are plenty that come, but I do not know them.

29390. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Do you know that they come, or have you only heard of it?

I know they have come.

29391. *Lord Thring.*] How many have come, do you suppose?

I cannot say how many families have come.

29392. One hundred?

No, not 100.

29393. Fifty?

Somewhere about 10 families.

29394. *Chairman.*] From your own neighbourhood?

From my own place, in my own country, there is only one family.

29395. Have you anything to tell the Committee; anything that you would like to say to the Committee?

I have six children, and I cannot make a living, and I do not like to go to the board of guardians.

29396. You mean that you would like to be in a position to earn a living for yourself without going to the Jewish Board of Guardians?

Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. BENJAMIN BURMAN, is called in; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:29397. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?

A tailor.

29398. In Manchester?

Yes.

29399. What do you mean by "tailor," a master tailor?

Yes.

29400. How many hands do you employ?

Fifteen.

29401. Men?

Men and women.

29402. How many men, and how many women?

Eight men and seven women.

29403. And what class of trade do you do?

Stock trade.

29404. Coats, vests and trousers?

No, no trousers; coats and vests.

(11.)

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Mr. BURMAN.

[Continued.]

29405. You make for the wholesale houses?
Yes.

29406. Do you make for a number of houses, or only for one?
I am working for two places.

29407. Are you bound in any way to work for those two, or can you get work from any house you like?
I may get work wherever I can get it.

29408. I suppose the trade you do is steadier than the order trade?
Yes.

29409. You do pretty much the same amount of trade all the year round?
No; I get more in the busy time and less in the slack time.

29410. Which is your busy time, and which your slack time?
From a month before Passover Week till Whit-week, and then from August to Christmas is the busy time.

29411. What is the reason, in a ready-made trade like yours, that there is so much variety, that you are so much busier at one time than another?
Well, that is the time when they get the orders.

29412. You mean when the large shops get the orders?
Yes.

29413. Do you have to get the work, or do they send it to you?
No, I have to go.

29414. Can you get it every day?
Sometimes we get it every day, and sometimes we get it twice a week or three times a week.

29415. It depends on what they have for you?
Yes.

29416. Is most of the work done on the last three days of the week?
Most of the work we get out on Saturday.

29417. Then, I suppose, in that case, you would work harder the first two or three days of the week?
We work just the same.

29418. Do you work on Sundays?
Yes.

29419. But not on Saturdays?
Not on Saturdays.

29420. How do you get your work in on Saturday if you are not working?
We have a Christian man who brings it.

29421. Do you employ any Christians in the shop?
Yes; two women.

29422. Is not it inconvenient for you because they cannot work on the Sunday?

No; we only keep them for buttons.

29423. Can you tell Committee what you get for coats and vests?
Yes, I have a book showing what I have been paid (*producing it*).

29424. What are the best paid goods that you make?
Every shop is not alike. I am working for a place where they pay bigger prices than at others. In this place to which the book refers they pay from 1 s. 5 d. up to 3 s. 6 d. for coats and waistcoats. In the other place I get a little more.

29425. How many do you turn out in a day?
In the busy time I can turn out 150 in the week.

29426. You

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[*Continued.*]

29426. You have to find everything?

Yes, I have to find everything.

29427. You get them ready cut, I suppose?

Yes.

29428. Do the men and women work together in your shop?

Yes.

29429. All in one room?

Yes.

29430. Have you only one room?

Yes.

29431. What are your general regular hours of work?

From seven till ten.

29432. For women and all?

No.

29433. What are the men employed in doing?

Piece-work.

29434. But what do they do?

They are tailors, and machinists, and pressers.

29435. And what do the women do?

Felling and button-holing.

29436. Then if your men are working up till 10, and the women do not, how do the women manage to keep up with the men?

The women have not so much to do; there is always less work for the women than for the men.

29437. What are the women's hours of work; when do they leave off?

At 8 o'clock.

29438. They work from 7 till 8?

From 8 till 8.

29439. The men from 7 till 10?

Yes.

29440. For six days in the week?

Yes.

29441. Have you ever been visited by the factory inspector?

Yes.

29442. When were you visited last?

Tuesday.

29443. How long have you been in this business?

Five years, since I worked for myself.

29444. In the same shop you have now?

No.

29445. How many shops have you had?

I have had about four.

29446. Four places in five years; and how many visits have you had from the factory inspector in those five years?

I cannot say.

29447. Do you work overtime?

Sometimes.

29448. Do you know how much overtime you are entitled to work through the year?

Yes, 48 times.

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[*Continued.*]

29449. Do you generally work that much ?
Yes.

29450. Do the women take any work home ?
No.

29451. Do you mean that you do not allow them to, if they want to ?
No, I do not.

29452. How do you pay them ; by the piece ?
Piecework.

29453. Both men and women ?
The tailors are working by the day, on the day's wage.

29454. How many tailors have you got, men ?
Two.

29455. And how many women ?
None are tailors.

29456. And all the women are paid by the piece ?
Yes.

29457. And if a woman wished to take a little work home because she was a slow worker, you would not let her ?
No.

29458. Why not ?
They used to get a lot of the work dirty, and some of the linings torn, so I had to pay it to the shopkeeper ; I had to pay for the linings.

29459. You used to let them take the work home, but you found they spoiled the work, and you had to pay for it, and so you stopped it ?
Yes. It is about two years ago.

29460. What living accommodation have you got in your shop, any water-closets ?
One water-closet ; there is one for three rooms ; one for one floor ; and there are three workshops.

29461. And how many men and women are there in your shop ?
Fifteen.

29462. Do you know how many there are in the other two shops ?
One has 22.

29463. And what the other ?
The other has about five.

29464. And this one privy is the only accommodation for the three ?
Yes.

29465. Has the sanitary inspector ever visited your place ?
Well, I do not know.

29466. How do you divide the work in your shop ; what do you do yourself, for instance ?
Fit them up and go to the shop.

29467. How do you divide the rest of the work ?
All the tailors do the tailoring between them ; and the finishers whatever they do they write it down on a book, and then when it comes to Friday night we make it up how much it comes to, and then we pay on the Saturday.

29468. Do you pay them all, or do some of them pay the others under them ?
No, I pay them.

29469. You pay every hand yourself ?
Yes.

29470. And

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29470. And none of your hands have got any hand working for them that they pay; helping them?

No.

29471. Have you got any learners?

I have had one learner, but she gets 5 s. a week now.

29472. Can you tell the Committee the prices you pay; what do you pay your tailors, the men?

Six shillings a day.

29473. Then the piece-work; how do you pay that?

Nine pence to one shilling for morning jackets and waistcoats; there are shooting coats and vests, and jackets and waistcoats; it is 1 s. for a shooting coat and waistcoat, and 9 d. for a jacket and waistcoat.

29474. What for the others?

Fourpence halfpenny for buttonholes and threepence halfpenny the felling. There are some common ones that are paid 3 d. For some coats I get 1 s. 10 d., and for those I pay 3 d. for the felling.

29475. You pay as low as 3 d. for felling?

Yes.

29476. What can the people earn at these rates; have you any idea; what would your machinist earn?

£. 2, 35 s., 2 l. 2 s.; that is the head one, like.

29477. And what will the lowest be earning?

One at 24 s. per week; one at 15 s. a week, sleeve making.

29478. That would be the lowest, would it?

Yes.

29479. What do they earn at this felling and button-holeing, and so on?

Every week is not alike.

29480. Of course it is not. What do they earn?

Some weeks they earn more; some weeks they earn less.

29481. What do they earn when they earn more, and what do they earn when they earn less?

Sometimes they earn 15 s., sometimes 20 s., and sometimes they earn 10 s.

29482. At felling?

At felling.

29483. What is the lowest that they would earn?

Ten shillings would be the lowest.

29484. Never earn less than that?

No.

29485. That would be working full time?

No; for 10 s. they have not to work full time.

29486. Working full time, what is the lowest wages that one of the hands felling at the rate of 3 d. would earn in a week?

Working a full week she earns 22 s.; sometimes it is 18 s.

29487. You said just now that one girl you were paying was earning 5 s. a week?

She is only, as you may call it, an apprentice.

29488. But you said that she is not a learner now, though she has been?

She has been, and she now gets 5 s. a week.

29489. How long has she been with you?

Five months.

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[Continued.]

29490. And now she has got 5 s. a week ; and except that, the wages they earn, working full time, would be about 18 s., you say ?

Not that learner, but all the others.

29491. Have you not got an under-presser paid by the presser :

Yes.

29492. You said just now you had not ?

Where I do not pay them I do not reckon them. If the presser keeps a helper he has to pay him ; but I pay the presser.

29493. The machinists have somebody to help them, I suppose ?

No ; the machinists keep a seamer ; but I have to pay them all myself.

29494. You are sure the machinist does not pay the seamer anything ?

No.

29495. Lord *Thring*.] The last witness told us that he worked, as we understood him, 20 hours, or nearly 20 hours, six days a week ; do you believe that statement ?

He works those hours.

29496. You heard him say that he worked for 20 hours, or nearly so, six days in the week, and you say that you believe that to be the fact ?

It is true.

29497. You know it as a fact, do you ?

I know it as a fact.

29498. Are there many workmen, Jews, who also work the same number of hours ?

No, but at some places, little places with about one or two workers.

29499. But it is not frequent ; it does not often happen that a man works 20 hours a day ?

Not in our line.

29500. But does it in any tailoring line to your knowledge ?

Yes ; in some places they work very late hours ; they work from six in the morning till twelve ; you can see with the gas lit up.

29501. Earl of *Derby*.] When you say that some of these men work 20 hours a day for a week together, do you mean that they are actually at work, actually employed all that time, or are they during part of that time merely waiting for work ?

They might be the most part waiting for work through the day time, and then when the garment comes in the afternoon they have to wait and make the garment for the morning.

29502. They would not therefore be working 20 hours out of the 24, but only hanging about in the shop waiting to be employed ?

Yes, I suppose so.

29503. *Chairman*.] You said in answer to Lord Derby that you thought that the most part of them would not be working all the time, the 20 hours, but would be waiting for work ?

Yes.

29504. This last witness said that when he was waiting for work they employed him in making "try-ons" what does that mean ?

Suppose a customer comes in to a shop and orders a suit, it has to be tried on before the garment is finished for fear it does not fit him.

29505. And then this man would be employed in altering it, do you mean ?

Yes, the hand has to alter it.

29506. Would it be customary in these small shops, do you think, where men work these very long hours, that if they were waiting for work they would be employed in that way ?

Yes.

29507. How

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[*Continued*]

29507. How long have you been in Manchester?
Going on for eleven years.

29508. Were you born in England?
No.

29509. Where did you come from?
Russia.

29510. Do you know whether many or most of the hands you employ are of foreign birth?

Yes, most of them; barring two English.

29511. Do you think the number of foreigners in Manchester is increasing?
There are a great many foreigners; very nearly all of them.

29512. Nearly all the Jews are foreigners, you mean?
Yes.

29513. Lord *Thring*.] Do you mean born abroad?
Yes.

29514. *Chairman*.] What makes them come to Manchester?
I do not know; that is a question; to look for something better, I suppose.

29515. What makes them come to England at all?
I cannot say.

29516. What did you come for?
Looking for work.

29517. In your opinion is there a pretty general idea abroad that there is plenty of work in this tailoring trade to be got in England?

It seems to be in the busy time, but not in the slack time.

29518. But, I mean, is there such an idea abroad in Russia, Germany, Roumania, and so on; do people there think that if they come to England they will get plenty of work?

Yes, I think so.

29519. Do you know whether there are any societies that bring them over?
No.

29520. Do many of them go back again from Manchester home?
Very few. A good many go to America.

29521. I suppose when when you employ a learner, you pay him nothing for a time?

Well, we give him some spending money.

29522. Is it usual in Manchester for the Jews and Gentiles to work together at the same shops?

In some places.

29523. But it is not the custom?
No.

29524. And the Jews are employed principally in making coats, are they?
Yes. There are some Jews making trousers and some making waistcoats.

29525. But, as a rule, do they make coats?
Most of them.

29526. That is the best paying part of the business, is it not?
Yes.

29527. Has the trade very much increased in Manchester in the last few years in ready-made made clothing?

It is a bit more this year, a little better this winter.

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[Continued.]

20528. Is there anything you would wish to say ?
No, I have nothing to say.

29529. You do all your work on your own premises, do you ?
Yes.

20530. You do not put out any ?
No.

MRS. BRIDGET LENNON, is called in, and, having been sworn ;
is Examined, as follows :

29531. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business ?
Tailoring.

29532. In Manchester ?
Yes.

29533. Have you a shop ?
No, only a dwelling-house.

29534. You work in your own house ?
Yes.

29535. What do you do ?
Trousers.

29536. Trousers altogether ?
Yes.

29537. Do you get this work from large houses ?
From a warehouse.

29538. And do you employ any hands ?
Two.

29539. Women ?
Yes, in the busy times; only one during the winter.

29540. During the slack time, that is to say ?
Yes.

29541. And what part of the work do you do yourself ?
I do not do anything at it.

29542. How do you pay these two hands, by piece ?
I pay them so much a pair, the same as I get myself. I get them out at from 3 s. to 9 s. a dozen, that is the highest.

29543. And what do you pay the women ?
I pay the women for the 3 s. a dozen trousers 3 d. a pair, and I have to find gas and thread, and everything out of the other 3 d., and machining and all.

29544. You say that you get 3 s. dozen ?
For some, for boys' trousers.

29545. And you say you pay women to make those 3 d. for each pair ?
Yes.

29546. That is 3 s. a dozen, is it not ?
Yes. I beg pardon. I should have said that I get 6 s. a dozen for those trousers

29547. So that you have 3 s. a dozen profit yourself ?
Yes.

29548. For

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[Continued.]

29548. For that you have to find the materials for sewing and gas, and thread, and machining?

Yes.

29549. One sewing machine, I suppose?

No, there are two.

29550. Then you give the women half what you get?

Yes.

29551. Do you work at anything at all yourself?

I am only looking after my own family. I find plenty to do to bring the work in and look after the family. I have a family of children,

29552. How long have these two hands been working for you?

These two hands are working since my daughter has learned the business; for two years.

29553. Does your daughter work for you?

Yes, at home; two daughters.

29554. Two daughters, did you say?

Yes, since I have had the machine.

29555. You do not count them; you do not pay them anything?

No; they have the use of the house, and I maintain them.

29556. Are these two women whom you employ skilled hands?

Yes, they are skilled workers; they finish after the machining.

29557. And how long have you been at this?

Two years.

29558. Only two years?

That is all.

29559. What were you doing before that?

Shopkeeping.

29560. Have you given up the shop now?

Yes.

29561. Were you ever visited by the factory inspector?

Only this present inspector, this gentleman, last week.

29562. Only once?

Once; just this week when he came.

29563. What hours do you work?

The girls start at nine, and work, when we were busy, till nine.

29564. Do your daughters work late?

No.

29565. You never have any work going on after nine?

No. Sometimes we do not have any at all.

29566. Do you have any work going on after nine?

No.

29567. Never?

Never.

29568. Do these hands go home to their meals?

They go home.

29569. How long do you give them?

As long as they like.

29570. You pay them by piece?

Yes.

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Mrs. LENNON.

[Continued.]

29571. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do you do any of the work yourself?
No.

29572. You only look after the house?
Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. J. SLAZENGER MOSS, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows :

29573. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business ?
Merchant tailor.

29574. In the ready-money trade ?
No.

29575. Altogether bespoke trade ?
Altogether.

29576. What do you mean exactly by a "merchant tailor" ?
That is the term used by the tailors ; a kind of merchant ; instead of a ready-made tailor they call him a merchant tailor.

29577. All your business is an order business, is it ?
Yes.

29578. Do you make all your goods on your own premises ?
On our own premises.

29579. How long have you been in that business ?
I should think about 150 years ; my family and myself.

29580. Are you a member of the Jewish board of guardians ?
I am.

29581. Do you hold any official position on the board ?
Simply a committee-man. I am one of the members of the board.

29582. It has been stated that the number of foreign immigrants into Manchester of Jews of foreign birth is increasing, is that so ?

No. I have here a table which will prove that it is not so in the last 10 years.

29583. What is it taken from ?
This is from this year's report ; it is not published yet but it is taken from the report.

29584. Do you make a report every year ?
Every year a report is made.

29585. To whom ?
To the Jewish community of Manchester.

29586. Who makes the report ?
The report is made out by the secretary, and submitted to the guardians, and, of course, it is circulated among the Jewish community of Manchester.

29587. And this is the report for the last year ?
Yes ; and this table is for the previous 10 years.

29588. You may tell the Committee the result of that report ?
In 1887-88 the number of foreigners in Manchester under one year, relieved was 212 ; in 1888-89, it was 167. That shows a decrease of 45 cases. The decrease in the case of residents of one year and upwards for the same period is 36.

29589. Do

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[Continued.]

29589. Do you draw any distinction in those tables between persons of foreign birth and persons born in this country?

We have very few born in this country; I might say 3 per cent.

29590. They are nearly all of foreign birth?

Nearly all. (*Table of statistics handed in as evidence.*)

29591. Then, according to these figures, in the last two years the numbers are slightly decreased?

Yes.

29592. Were they increasing up to that?

On the tables here these are classified for the last 10 years.

29593. I see, according to this, the number was increasing up to 1887-1888?

Yes.

29594. How do you account for its decreasing since?

By the strictness of the Board of Guardians in the rules that they have to go by. For instance, a foreigner, if he comes over here, is not relieved without having been six months in Manchester; he has to be six months in Manchester before he is relieved; and then he is not relieved without it is a case of sheer necessity. So that we really do not give them any encouragement to make it a settled place; we give them all the help we can to get them back to where they came from.

29595. Do you send any of them home?

We refer them to the German Society, and the German Society give them a ticket from Hull, and we help them from Manchester to Hull, or whatever the shipping port might be.

29596. What do you mean by the German Society?

There is a German Society in Manchester that helps these foreigners.

29597. Perhaps you would kindly tell the Committee how you conduct your business in the way of giving relief, and so on. I understand you that you give no relief in any case till the person has been resident six months?

Six months in Manchester.

29598. Then, I presume, you make strict inquiries into their circumstances?

Yes. The secretary or clerk takes the name, and hands it to a visitor. This visitor visits the house where the person lives, and makes all the inquiries he can about the person, and then it is handed to a rota committee, a committee of three, who meet twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, who hear cases, and have full power to act accordingly.

29599. Do you advance money by way of loan to people to help to set them up in business in a small way, and so on?

We have what is called a loan society, but without charging any interest whatever. A man who has been six months in Manchester is at liberty to ask for a loan, if he is a respectable man, and we charge no interest whatever. We simply do that to keep them off the books, to keep them from becoming beggars, to start them in life, and assist them all we can. We have found that a very grand institution; it keeps a number of people from becoming paupers.

29600. Then in cases of destitution I understand you would give them such relief as you thought necessary, or in other cases you would help them to return to their own homes?

Quite so.

29601. Do you find much desire on their part to go home?

On their part very seldom. If a man is very hard pressed, and says he cannot do anything here, he may be willing to go home; but they desire

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generally

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Mr. Moss.

[*Continued.*]

generally to remain in this country. In this case which you have had before you to-day, this man, Smolenski,* was offered the chance of being sent home, and he refused pointblank. In fact, in every case where they apply to us we offer to send them back again.

29602. I suppose these people are in all trades?

Yes.

29603. Are they mostly tailors?

Mostly tailors; and in fact a good many of them have no trade at all.

29604. Do many foreigners, in your opinion, arrive in Manchester having no trade and without any means to support them for a time, in a condition approaching pauperism?

Yes.

29605. And what becomes of them, if you make it a rule not to relieve people till they have been six months in Manchester?

Either they are forced to go back home, or their own country people relieve them for the necessary length of time.

29606. Have you any idea what induces them to come here at all?

I suppose they are induced by reports spread by their own people or relations here, and persecution abroad.

29607. Reports of what nature?

Reports of their own success.

29608. Was there not a conference between the various Jewish boards of guardians some little time ago on the subject of foreign immigration?

I believe there was, in London.

29609. Do you know anything about that?

I do not.

29610. Do you know who represented Manchester?

I believe Mr. Henriquez.

29611. It was held in Manchester, was it?

No, in London, I believe.

29612. Have you seen the report of that conference?

I cannot remember.

29613. In your own business do you employ Jews and Gentiles mixed?

Yes; we have about 80 Gentiles and about six Jews. We have a separate workshop for them.

29614. How do you pay your hands?

Piece-work.

29615. Is there any log or statement of wages in Manchester?

Yes; we pay the Christian people by the log.

29616. And that does not affect the Jews?

No; in fact they prefer working their own way. You could not get a Jew to work with the same style as Christians, or under the same rules either.

29617. Is it the case that most of the Jews are employed in making coats?

It is.

29618. How do you account for that?

I suppose they are better paid for that kind of work.

29619. In fact, the best paid class of work is in the hands of the Jews, and the worst paid, or the less well paid, kind of work in the hands of the Gentiles.

It is the opposite; the best work is made by the Gentiles, and the commoner class work is made by the Jews.

29620. But

* The witness has since written as follows:—"I find on referring that Smolenski is a refugee from Roumania, and, therefore, I was mistaken in saying that we offered to send him back, as he would not be allowed to return as Poles are."

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Mr. Moss.

[Continued.]

29620. But the best paid work of the commoner class, that is to say coats, is generally in the hands of the Jews?

The commoner class is all in the hands of the Jews.

29621. Coats and trousers and all?

No; there are very few trousers made by Jews.

29622. Why is it that coats, which are better paid than trousers and vests, have come to be made by Jews principally?

I suppose they can make more in a week's work from the coats.

29623. And they have cut out the Gentiles from that trade, I presume, by making them at lower rates?

Yes, in the lower class trade.

29624. Have the coats in these cheaper classes and grades of goods always been made by Jews?

To my recollection they have.

29625. You do not employ out-workers yourself at all?

None whatever.

29626. What is the general custom in that matter in Manchester in your class of business?

The general custom is to have workshops attached to the premises, in which all the work is done, both coats, vests, and trousers.

29627. Do you allow your hands to take any work home?

No.

29628. Is that the general custom, too, not to take work home?

In the smaller class trades, where they have no workshop or no room for a workshop; in the bespoke trade they take the work home, or to the workshops of this class of men that you have had here to-day.

29629. Do you keep your hands fully employed all the year?

Yes.

29630. Earl of *Derby*.] I presume you are pretty well acquainted with the wages commonly paid, and the hours commonly worked, in the tailoring trade?

Yes.

29631. We have had it stated here that some men were in the habit of working as much as 20 hours out of the 24, and that for six days in the week; is there anything in your experience to confirm that statement?

Nothing whatever. I think it is a complete fabrication; the man I do not suppose understood what he was saying. I have visited for the Jewish board of guardians for the last seven years, and during my visits I never saw a case of that kind yet.

29632. Lord *Thring*.] You do not know the particular witness who gave that evidence, do you?

Yes. I was saying just now that he ought to have gone back to his own country; the Jewish board of guardians of Manchester offered to pay his fare if he would go back, and he stated here that he was willing to go back. The board offered to pay his fare back to his own country.

29633. Lord *Sandhurst*.] Did they offer to pay his fare, and also the fare of his family?

To send them all back.

29634. Lord *Thring*.] And he refused?

He refused.

29635. *Chairman*.] What would you say as to the hours of work in the small places, like the one which that witness worked in; would you say he was mistaken?

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[*Continued.*]

I should think so ; he did not understand your Lordship's questions, perhaps, or it may be that he wanted to make his case out.

29636. You are aware that the next witness corroborated him ?

I could not say anything about that.

29637. What would you say as to the hours of work in the trade generally ; are they excessive ?

Part of the year they certainly do work long hours, but in the quiet part of the year they have no work to do, and it is necessary to work all the more during the busy season to keep themselves during the quiet time.

29638. What kind of hours would they work ?

I should say from six o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock at night.

29639. And principally about three days a week ; they get pushed towards the end of the week ?

They get pushed the latter part of the week, and on Thursday night they would work an hour later, say.

29640. Lord *Thring.*] You know of your own knowledge that this man was offered to return home ?

Yes.

29641. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Do you find many of the foreign Jews come here with the intention of going to America ?

A number of them state that that is the case.

29642. Do you think that they do ?

They state so.

29643. You have no means of knowing whether that is their intention ?

No ; it is difficult to find out what they really do mean in the case of a good many of them.

29644. In the case of many of them I suppose their great desire is to get away from their own country ?

Yes.

29645. Lord *Monkswell.*] Do you pay the fare for them when you send them back ?

We give it to the porter to see them into the train. The German Society give them a ticket here from Hull to wherever they go, and we pay the railway fare from Manchester to Hull.

29646. The German Society would send that man whom we have had here from Hull to his own country ?

To Germany.

29647. But that man was from Roumania ?

In that case we have a special fund by which it is done.

29648. Do you think he understood you to mean that he would be put down in his own village in Roumania with his wife and family without any expense to him, and that his cost of eating and drinking would be provided ?

We generally give them something in their pockets.

29649. You think he understood that ?

I should think so.

29650. *Chairman.*] Supposing a man was sent back in that way to Germany, would not there be an objection made to receiving him back at Hamburg unless he had some means of supporting himself ?

I do not think so. The German Society would not grant them a ticket without they were convinced that they came from Germany and were German subjects. In the case of Austrian and Russian subjects they must each have 30 s., the cost of transit through Germany, or they are not allowed to land at Hamburg. The German Society in Manchester does not grant return passages to the latter class unless the 30 s. are produced at the time of making application.

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tion. Directly they get this ticket from the German Society we see them off by train from Manchester with the two tickets. Of course, after they go from Manchester we do not know what they do.

29651. You do not know whether there are any rules or regulations in Germany about their not landing?

No.

29652. Lord *Thring*.] Do you know whether this man assigned any reason why he did not go back; was he a refugee?

I do not know. In Germany a great many of them come away from fear of serving in the army; that is the great fear they have. We do all we can to induce them to return.

29653. Lord *Sandhurst*.] I suppose if they have come away from fear of serving in the army, they are all the more reluctant to go back again, because they would be punished if they did?

Quite so.

29654. *Chairman*.] Have you read the evidence given before the Committee by the representative of the Jewish board of guardians in London?

I am not quite sure; I might have done.

29655. I meant to ask you whether, generally speaking, you conduct your business in Manchester in much the same way as the Jewish board of guardians in London?

Much the same way; I suppose it is much the same.

29656. Have you anything else to say to the Committee?

Superintendent Rook mentioned that there were cases of scarlet fever, and he did not know how to get at them when there were such cases, because they did not let him know. I might mention that we have a doctor attached to the board, who in all cases, if there is anything reported, is bound as a doctor to send word to the sanitary authorities.

29657. Among your own people, you mean?

If there is any disease, or anything that is at all infectious, he is bound by the laws to send word to the sanitary inspector, and these inspectors, of course, immediately take the case in hand.

29658. Do you know if any general action was taken by the Jewish board of guardians throughout the country in respect of this question of foreign immigration; whether they have come to any mutual agreement?

I do not think so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JOHN ROBERTS, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

29659. *Chairman*.] WHAT firm are you connected with?
Rylands and Sons, Limited, of Manchester.

29660. You are the manager?
Yes.

29661. What is the business of Messrs. Rylands and Sons, Limited?
They are manufacturers and merchants engaged in the textile and clothing trade, having 17 warehouses and works, and employing upwards of 11,000 hands.

29662. Do you do anything in clothing?
Yes; that is the department for which I am the manager.

29663. You manage the clothing department?
Yes, exclusively.

29664. Ready-made clothing?
Ready-made clothing.

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Mr. ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

29665. How long has that been in existence?

Twenty-two years, about.

29666. And how is that conducted; are the goods manufactured in the factory?

Partially so; I may say principally so.

29667. And how is that portion made up that is not manufactured on the premises?

They are given out.

29668. Given out to workers?

Yes, to workers.

29669. What have been called out-workers?

Out-workers.

29670. How do you pay your hands in the factory?

Principally piece-work.

29671. And what do you pay by time?

Weekly hands.

29672. What would they be doing, I mean?

They would be doing garments of various kinds; special orders on an article that is ordered to be made according to special measurements are paid weekly, as a rule.

29673. Would your practice be that all the general trade, as it were, is paid by piece, but that exceptional work which you cannot calculate would be paid by time?

Yes, as a rule.

29674. Can you give us the prices you pay by piece?

Yes. Of course much depends upon the quality of the material. Do you mean for the indoor or the outdoor workers?

29675. The indoor workers?

What garments would you like to know first?

29676. Anything that you like; you had better give us the highest and the lowest, or the average?

Boys' juvenile suits from 1 s. upwards.

29677. Up to what?

Two-and-sixpence.

29678. Are these boys' juvenile suits about the cheapest kind of goods you make?

Yes, that is for suits.

29679. And what would be the prices in the higher class goods?

From 1 s. up to 2 s. 4 d., that is to say juvenile suits, which are little boys' suits.

29680. I quite understand that a juvenile is a little boy. You state that that is the cheapest kind of goods you make. I want to know what the prices are for a superior class of goods?

Two-and-fourpence is the highest that we pay for them in the juvenile.

29681. But in other suits I mean?

Up to 4 s. or 5 s.

29682. Do you make the vests and trousers on your premises?

Yes.

29683. Are any coats made by out-workers?

Yes.

29684. And

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Mr. ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

29684. And vests and trousers?
And vests and trousers.

29685. Are the vests made by women?

Well, they are given out to Jews. I presume they are partially, at any rate.

29686. Do you pay your out-workers at the same rate as the in-workers?

Well, we can scarcely gather that information, because in the first place, so far as the indoor working is concerned, we endeavour to get hold of the best possible machines and machinery that we can get, so as to enable us to produce the goods and to give the advantage to the hands, to get the quantity round in as short a space of time as possible.

29687. Therefore, I presume that you mean that you pay more to the outworkers?

Their work is sometimes a little superior, but it is proportionately much about the same, although the indoor workers of course are working, so to speak, with different kinds of machinery from what the people get out of doors.

29688. Then I will put it in another way. In your opinion would the out-workers and the in-workers be able to earn about the same?

I should think about the same.

29689. The work you put out you said is done principally by Jews?

I presume so; the things are given to Jews.

29690. And then what becomes of that; you do not know, I suppose?

We do not know.

29691. You do not know whether they make it on their own premises, or what they pay, or anything about it.

No.

29692. Are your indoor hands allowed to take work home?

Very little indeed; not as a rule.

29693. And what are your hours?

Fifty-two and a-half per week, that is including five hours for Saturdays.

29694. Do the men and women work together or separately?

Well, they work separately, with the exception of the pressers, who are in an adjoining room, which is almost the same you may term it.

29695. Do the men work longer hours?

Only on special occasions.

29696. I mean your business is so arranged that the men can work longer hours without the breaking of the Act?

Yes.

29697. If you can supply yourselves on your premises with the best machinery, and so on, I presume that you make some considerable economy in power, in machinery.

Yes.

29698. How is it in that case that you do not do all your work on the premises?

There are different classes of work; for instance, the Jews employ men, as a rule, to make the coats and waistcoats.

29699. But could not you make them cheaper than they can, or as cheap?

We make them a little cheaper, but not quite as well as they do; so that, in reality, they are not cheaper.

29700. And is that the reason why you employ the Jews?

That is the reason, principally, why we employ outdoor labour.

(11.)

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29701. Have

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MR. ROBERTS.

[*Continued.*]

29701. Have you any opinion as to the foreign immigration in Manchester? No, I have not.

29702. You know nothing about it; you do not know whether there are more of these Jewish outworkers now than there were 10 years ago? I really cannot say.

29703. Are the prices about the same as they were 10 years ago? Yes, they do not vary very much. I know we have any quantity of applications?

29704. Applications for work, you mean? Yes.

29705. More than you used to have? More than we used to have.

29706. But that has not had the effect of knocking down prices? Not at all.

29707. How do these Jewish outworkers manage to keep the prices up if there is so much competition among themselves to get work from you and from others in your business?

I do not think they could afford to work for much less, that is my idea.

29708. You think it has got down about as low as it can? Yes.

29709. I suppose you cut out all the work yourselves? Everything.

29710. Finish it yourselves too, or does it come in finished? That is to say, the garments?

29711. Yes? They are finished out-of-doors; and if they are made inside all, of course, would be finished in the place.

29712. You know nothing, I presume, about the hours of work, or the wages paid by these outworkers? Not the slightest.

29713. By an outworker, I understand you would mean a man or woman working for you in their own dwelling and employing no labour, or a man working for you and employing other labour? Yes.

29714. Either one or the other? One or the other.

29715. Have you in your mind any definition of what is called sweating? Well, really, I have not.

29716. You do not know whether these outworkers are in any case middlemen, whether they put out the work again? Not that I know of, individually.

29717. I mean do you know anything about it? I do not.

29718. Do you know anything at all about any other businesses of the firm of Messrs. Rylands and Company, as far as making shirts or mantles, or waterproof goods, or anything of that sort is concerned?

Yes, waterproof goods; that is in my own department.

29719. Is it carried on in the same way as the clothing business which you have described?

Precisely, but all made inside; we make all the rubber goods, the mackintosh goods inside, there are none given out whatever.

29720. Then

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[*Continued.*]

29720. Then it is different in that respect ?
Different in that respect only.

29721. Is there any peculiarity in the way that trade or business is managed ?

Not according to our way of conducting it ; it is precisely on the same principle as the clothing portion of it.

29722. And as far as shirts and so on are concerned, do you know anything about that ?

The shirts, I believe, are conducted on precisely the same principle as our own portion of the business.

29723. Partly made in and partly made out ?
I believe so.

29724. Do you make any inquiries as to the sanitary condition of the places where your goods are made ?

We get an inspector there very frequently indeed, the sanitary inspector and the medical officer.

29725. They do visit ?
They do at the place.

29726. I do not mean at your place, but at the other places ?
I do not know anything about that.

29727. Lord *Sandhurst.*] In regard to these Jewish houses to which the work is sent out, have you some people who have worked for the firm for a long time ?

Yes.

29728. When you give out such work to these people, do you ever give any notice to the factory inspector that you employ certain people in these Jewish quarters ?

I do not know that we give notice ; but the books are always open for them to see, and if they ask for them, the addresses will be given of all persons. I cannot answer that question directly, because I have a manager under me at the works.

29729. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] You do not know also whether the sanitary inspector ever asked for such information ?

No, I do not.

29730. Do you think your superintendent under you would mention it to you if he did ?

He would report it to me if there was anything wrong, decidedly.

29731. But he would not mention the mere fact that the sanitary inspector had asked for information as to the addresses of the men ?

No, I think not.

29732. *Chairman.*] How do you arrange the prices with these Jewish out-workers ; is there a regular statement of prices ?

Oh, dear no.

29733. How do you settle ?

We pay them for instance, on a low price sack coat from 1 s. 7 d. up to 2 s. 6 d.

29734. I understand that ; but how do you settle that ; you cannot make a particular bargain for every coat or vest, or pair of trousers, I suppose ?

Every cutting we do ; that is to say, supposing a cutting number is given out, (there is a calculation number or a cutting number), they know the class of work, 30, 40, or 50 in the cutting ; our price for that is so-and-so ; it is entered out to them at that price ; that is the standard price that we pay not only to one Jew, but to the whole of them, if they are equally well made. We regulate the price which we give them ; then it is for them to accept or reject it.

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Mr. ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

29735. Well, does it vary much?

Not a great deal; for years it goes on much about the same.

29736. For five, 10, or 15 years?

Yes. Of course sometimes we get them made for less, and if they are very busy we have to pay more.

29737. And if they are not quite as good, what do you do?

We pay them a less price, but nothing less than what I have stated; that is the lowest price.

29738. And what happens when the goods are received by you, and you do not consider them properly made?

We should not give them any more.

29739. You would pay for that lot?

Pay for that lot.

29740. And not give them another?

Not give them any more goods out.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES F. QUINN, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

29741. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?

A tailor.

29742. A tailor in Manchester?

Yes.

29743. Do you hold any position in the Amalgamated Society of Tailors?

Yes; I am President of the Manchester Central Branch and President of the Manchester District.

29744. How long have you been President?

I am in my fourth year now.

29745. Are you working at your trade now?

Yes.

29746. Was there a special inquiry made by your society into alleged sweating in Manchester?

Yes; I was appointed by the executive council of our amalgamation, accompanied by other gentlemen, to make inquiries into the sweating system in Manchester, both with reference to our own private shops, and also to the sale shops, and also to the warehouses.

29747. When was that inquiry made?

That inquiry was made during the month of September 1887; since then there have been additional inquiries made.

29748. Did you make any report?

I made a report to my society as requested by the executive council.

29749. You made a report of the inquiry in 1887?

Yes.

29750. Have you made any report since?

Not to the society.

29751. What do you understand by sweating?

I understand that the sweater is the man who takes work of a firm and employs others to make the work at a cheaper rate than he himself receives for it.

29752. Making his profit out of their labour?

Making his profit out of the labour of the men who work for him; and
I may

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[Continued.]

I may say that we have in Manchester from 60 to 70 firms who claim to be first-class establishments, and I am sorry to have to admit the fact, that out of the 60 or 70 we have only six firms who do not either employ outworkers or employ both outworkers and sweaters.

29753. When you use the term outworkers, what do you mean?

An outworker is a man who simply takes work from a firm, and does it himself, assisted by possibly some member of his own family; but the sweater is a man who takes the work from the firm and employs other individuals to make it at a less price, to enable him to have a profit from their labour.

29754. Well do you object to the outworkers in any way?

The outworkers certainly affect the inworkers, from this fact, that the majority of them work at a less rate of pay than those who are employed inside on the premises, and furthermore they are placed at a disadvantage by having to provide their own requirements, such as machines, light, fire, irons, and all that is required, which would be provided for them if they worked in shops on the premises.

29755. I understand then that you think outworking is objectionable because the tendency is to break down the log?

The log prices; and even if they were paid the log prices, having to provide their own machinist, and to provide for their own requirements, we consider that it is a reduction on the prices paid to the men inside.

29756. Then your only objection in that case is as to the rate of wages?

Yes; but we should be more satisfied if some action could be taken to compel all employers to provide workshops, and have the whole of the orders executed on their own premises; it would give a fairer amount of employment to the workers of the trade generally.

29757. Is there any difference generally, in your opinion, between the habits of the men who work inside, and those of the men who work in their own homes?

No, I think there is much of a sameness between them. I have read that remarks on that subject have been passed at this Committee. I do not know whether it would be right for me to refer to some evidence that was given as to the preference of the employment of outworkers over inworkers; I quite disagree from the opinion expressed by that witness as to the practices carried on.

29758. What habits do you mean?

Intemperate habits. My experience of Manchester from 1863 up to the present time enables me to know that that is not the reason why the preference is given to the outworkers, but the fact of the preference is from their working cheaper, and making themselves a convenience to work any and all hours so as to get the orders executed for the firm by which they are employed.

29759. There were two reasons alleged to the Committee; one being that the men themselves, the best of them, preferred to work outside because they thought the language and habits, and so on of the inworkers, were objectionable; and the other, that the masters preferred outworkers because they were steadier men, and they could rely upon them to execute their orders better. Now, as regards the latter, I understand you to say that you object to that statement, and think that is not so?

Yes.

29760. But as regards the former, what do you say?

As to moral habits you mean?

29761. Yes?

I have been acquainted with some outworkers, and their language and habits are quite on a par with those that you may find objected to in people employed in the workshops.

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29762. You

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Mr. QUINN.

[Continued.]

29762. You think there is practically no difference between them?

No; if a man will go from his business in the workshop and get drunk, he will do it at home; I have seen instances of it.

29763. You do not think the outworkers are all steadier men than the inworkers?

No; they are steady men among them; but I do not think steadier as a rule than the inworkers.

29764. But the reason why they employ outworkers you think is that they will work any hours that are necessary?

Yes.

29765. And you think that this outwork ought to be put a stop to?

I think it would be to the interest of the trade if all work were executed on the premises.

29766. On account of the wages question, do you mean?

Yes, and also from a sanitary point of view.

29767. On account of infection, that is to say?

Yes. In connection with our society, we have a rule which bears directly upon any of our workers whose family may be infected with infectious disease. The case is reported, and he is bound to cease work; and he receives a benefit of 15 s. a week while the sickness is in his family. In the case of a man working at home who was not a member of the society we could not get to know of it. The possibilities are that the work might go on notwithstanding the infectious disease.

29768. Do you admit outworkers to your society?

Yes.

29769. Do many of them belong to your society?

Not a very great number. I suppose, in Manchester, some 50 or 60 at the present time.

29770. How long have you been in Manchester; since 1863, do you say?

Yes, permanently, since that time; but I was born in Manchester; I was away from it a short time in the Army, but I have permanently been in Manchester from 1863.

29771. Well, has this so-called sweating increased since then?

Considerably.

29772. How do you account for that?

I account for it by the increase in the foreign labour.

29773. Do you think that has increased largely?

Yes.

29774. And is it still increasing, do you think?

Yes. I know that in 1863, the number of foreign Jewish sweaters, the Jewish tailors, was considerably, very considerably, less than what it is to-day; and of late years, they are increasing. But it seems to be the idea or ambition of the Jewish tailor to become what is termed amongst themselves a master, that is, to become a sweater; and also there is a new practice which has come in amongst the employers of Manchester, whereby they are engaging Jewish tailors, employing them on their premises, to the disadvantage of the native workmen.

29775. How do you mean "to the disadvantage of the native workman"?

From a wage point of view. The Jew tailor does not receive, nor does he ask for, the same rate of remuneration that the native workmen in our trade receive.

29776. Then you object to his competition on that account?

Yes. We have no objection to the foreign labourer if he will work on the same terms as the native workman; but we do consider it an injustice on his part

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[Continued.]

part to come and undersell the native workmen. A gentleman has appeared before the Committee to-day, who stated that he employed both Gentiles and Jews, and he stated that he paid to the log; that is to the log of Manchester; which is not the truth; he does not, and he pays the Jewish workpeople whom he employs——

29777. He did not say that he paid the Jews according to the log?
No; but he does not pay the Gentiles either to the log.

29778. I understand then that object to the employment of any foreign labour that competes in the matter of wages with the native labour?

Certainly; and we also object to it on the ground of the length of hours which they work. I have known myself Jewish tailors in Manchester, I have been working in the same place where out of nine men that were employed, four worked from Thursday morning at six o'clock, without any intermission except to rest by stretching themselves on the work-board until twelve o'clock on the Saturday following; all night on Thursday night, and all night on the Friday.

29779. All Thursday, all Thursday night, all Friday and all Friday night?

Yes; except that when they got exhausted they just simply lay down on the shop-board and had a short sleep, and then commenced work again. On the Friday morning two out of the four went to the Synagogue for about an hour and then continued on their work.

29780. Has your trade changed since 1861 in any other respect?

Yes, by the foreign labour, and by the fact of out-workers, our prices have been considerably reduced.

29781. Machinery, I suppose, has had some effect, has it not?

Yes, machinery has had a great deal to do with it.

29782. Have you any objection to that?

We have no objection to a regulated system of payment for work done by the machine, but I am sorry to say that a number of employers take advantage of the machine-labour put into garments, and do not pay what we consider a fair remuneration for the labour done by hand. For instance, a hand-made coat, say a hand-made morning coat, should come, according to the log if made by hand, to 17 s. 9 d., or over that if a gentleman required more extras; but the employer will only pay 9 s. for that coat, and they offer, as an equivalent to the machine-labour, an amount which is a very great act of injustice; the machine does not do anything near like the work for the amount of reduction from the hand-made garments to the machine-made garments.

29783. You mean that there is more labour put in than they pay for?

There is not an equivalent of machine-labour for the amount of reduction from the price.

29784. The trade is a good deal more sub-divided than it used to be, is it not?

Yes; the warehouses and the foreigners have adopted the system of the subdivision of labour, and it is telling very much upon the condition of the cheaper-class trade.

29785. How was this trade, which is now to a large extent in the hands of the foreigners, carried on formerly?

Formerly there were a few, not what we call practical workmen, who took the work from these warehouses and made it by hand at a cheap rate under the best circumstances they possibly could, assisted by members of their own family. Of course the wages that they earned were very miserable indeed under any circumstances.

29786. Is skilled labour getting scarce in your trade?

Hand-labour is getting scarce; of course the machines do a deal of the work now that, 30 years ago, had to be done by hand.

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[Continued.]

29787. Would it be correct to say that the supply of unskilled labour is very large, larger than the demand, and that the supply of skilled labour is getting rather less than the demand, rather scarce?

I think that would rather want to be qualified, from the fact of the want of apprentices to the trade.

29788. You complain of the want of apprentices?

That would be one of the reasons why there is a falling off in the number of skilled or hand-sewing tailors; and then also from the fact that these who are apprentices at the present day learn from the machine, and not, as under the old system, from the first stages of the business, by hand.

29789. What should you propose to substitute for the former system of apprenticeship, or would you like to see it revived?

I think the old system of apprenticeship should be revived.

29790. Was a committee appointed to inquire specially into the Jewish workshops by your society?

The Jewish workshops formed part of the inquiry, and that was part of the duty imposed upon us.

29791. Do they differ in any respect from other workshops?

Yes, considerably.

29792. In what way?

The sanitary condition of the places used as workshops by the Jewish master-sweaters was very bad indeed at the time of our visit.

29793. You visited them personally?

Yes.

29794. Very bad, in what way?

Dirty, ill-ventilated, and an entire absence of sanitary requirements.

29795. What kind of sized shops were they?

Ordinary bed-rooms as a rule.

29796. Bed-rooms turned into workshops?

Yes. I have one case here which I could read the remarks about.

29797. Yes; you need not give the name?

The premises were occupied previously as postal telegraph stores; this place was very filthy and neglected indeed, and we found from 12 to 20 males and females employed (this I may say was off one of the principal streets in Strange-ways, Manchester), and he employed them at making warehouse work, for which he received for coats and vests from the firm that he worked for, 3 s. 3 d. per coat and vest, bound morning coat, 2 s. 6 d., and with vest, 3 s. 3 d.

29798. How do you know what he received?

By asking one of the employés, his manager. The master himself was absent at the time, and the manager divulged to me and my colleague the prices that he received. And then for jackets, that is, an ordinary three-seam jacket which fits an ordinary-sized man, he received 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 10 d.; for overcoats with bound edges and five pockets, 3 s., and for fly front stitched edges with five pockets and bound fronts, he would receive 2 s. 6 d.

29799. And how would that compare with your log prices?

It would be about an eighth of the price of a coat made by hand, according to our log.

29800. And would it be as good?

Certainly not.

29801. What was he paying, do you know, to his hands?

He was paying from 4 s. to 6 s. per day to the men who did the work; and to the man machinist, 8 d. for the coat and vest machining; 6 d. for jackets and vests, and 6 d. for overcoats. To the felling hands, coat and vest, 3½ d. for felling, and to the presser, 6 d. for the coat and vest. The button-hole hand from 4 d. to 4½ d. per dozen in that particular case; but in other inquiries made I found that the average for button-holing was from 4½ d. to 5½ d. I saw in another room, in another place in the same neighbourhood, with very dirty surroundings indeed, coats making for a very large warehouse, Rylands & Co., where the same price was paid for coat and vest, 3 s. 3 d., and for jackets the same,

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[Continued.]

same, and for trousers 12 s. per dozen. This man also adopted the system of paying day's wages to his employes. And the same rate to the feller, presser, and machinist.

29802. How do you describe the men that take day wages, what do you call them, tailors?

They are termed tailors.

29803. What do they do?

They do the preparing for the machine, and the preparing for the fellers and the button-holders.

29804. Why are they paid by time?

I do not know really, unless it will be to hide the profits made by the master sweater as could be understood by the piece-work system. The master sweater receiving these prices, paying piece-work, of course, the outside public, if it became known, would know more plainly what his profits were than by paying the man this rate of pay for the day. I said "a day," but I hope you will allow me to qualify that; a day would be properly two days in many instances. Those people working, as I know and have seen them do, commencing work at six o'clock in the morning, and working continuously until twelve, and then going home and taking a little rest, and then returning again at four or five o'clock and continuing on until twelve and one the night following; that is what the master sweaters amongst the Jews would consider a day's work.

29805. Let me understand you; you say that a man would come to work on, say, Tuesday morning, work up to one or two o'clock on Wednesday morning, go home, come back again, and work on till Thursday, and that they call that one day's work?

Yes; that is what the master sweater would call one day's work.

29806. Then how do they define a day?

There is no definition amongst them, but as long as nature will hold out they let the poor fellow work on.

29807. Do you mean that such long hours as that are at all customary?

It is very general among the Jewish people.

29808. Have the men who work for these sweaters any society?

No. Our society opened its ranks to them and gave them an opportunity to come in, and a branch was formed, and we defended one or two actions for them; but they do not seem to be alive to the advantages of organisation, or to the usefulness of trying to come under proper conditions.

29809. Does the sweater generally work for himself?

Not in all cases; he simply carries the work backwards and forwards, and gives it into the hands of the men. In some instances they do work.

29810. They work as hard as the others?

No, the sweater will merely give a little assistance, in case a garment is wanted at a special time, or make an occasional garment during the week himself to increase his own profits.

29811. Do you find women and children working long hours too?

Yes, I have; I have found women employed after hours and children; a risk is run by those people, but the fact of the places not being registered gives no opportunity of bringing them under the notice of the authorities.

29812. In places like such as you have mentioned what intervals would a man have for his meals?

Meals! He eats as he works as a rule; in some instances he may run home and take a hasty meal, but generally he eats as he works.

29813. What do they live upon?

My experience is that they live upon tea, bread-and-butter, fish, eggs, and cheese; some of those that are in a better condition eat cold fowl; the majority of them live upon fish.

29814. And they bring their food with them, and eat in the shop, do they?

The majority; in the case of some of them their meals are brought by their wives or children.

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Mr. QUINN.

[Continued.]

29815. Did you read Mr. Holley's evidence before this Committee?
I cannot say that I did.

29816. Did he not once occupy the position in which you occupy?
He occupied the presidency of the amalgamated society; mine is only the presidency of the Manchester of the Manchester Central Branch; Mr. Holley was the general president, so to speak.

29817. Do you find Jews and Christians working together in Manchester?
Yes; there are two firms who employ Jews on their premises, but not in the same rooms; the Jews are in a room to themselves, and so are the Gentiles; and the Jews receive from 2 s. to 3 s. less for coats made by them than the price paid to the Gentiles.

29818. Then I understand from you that you consider that these Jewish workshops are a good many of them in an unsanitary condition, that the people employed work for excessive hours, and that they work for a too small rate of wage?

Yes.

29819. But you do not object to foreign labour excepting so far as its competition with native labour lets down the rate of wage?

I object to that; but I would rather the foreigner would stay at home altogether, and let us have all the labour we can for ourselves, and I think that is not too much, though it is rather improved at present.

29820. And also that you think that either the system of apprenticeship should be revived, or that some steps should be taken to substitute something for it; have you any particular opinion about the value of technical education?

No, I have not formed any opinion about that; I believe the question is under consideration, but I have not formed any opinion upon the matter.

29821. Earl of *Derby*.] You have spoken of the very long hours which come of these foreigners' work; did you speak from your own personal knowledge?

Yes.

29822. When you spoke of the set of men who worked from Thursday morning till Saturday morning?

Yes.

29823. You know that of your own personal knowledge?

Yes.

29824. You wish to get rid of the outworkers altogether if it is possible?

Yes, if it is possible; I think it would be better to have all work executed on the premises.

29825. Are you prepared to say that Parliament should interfere and forbid any work being done except in workshops?

I would not be prepared to go so far as that.

29826. You think that it would be desirable if it could be done, but you do not see your way to doing it compulsorily?

No.

29827. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Did I understand you to say that even in workshops Jewish labour has been brought in to run down the English labour?

Yes.

29828. In what way in the workshops?

The Jews would make garments at a less rate than the Christian workers; coats, for instance, that would be made by the Christian workmen, and have to be machined for 14 s., would be made by the Jew for 9 s.

29829. Then in all the workshops do they always work separate, the Jew and the Christian?

Yes.

29830. Lord

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Mr. QUINN.

[Continued.]

29830. Lord *Monkswell*.] Does the sweater insist on long hours, or do the workmen work these hours in order to get enough to live on?

The sweater will insist as far as he can, in fact, I know of one case where a man was told that if he did not work he would be discharged; and his circumstances were such that he had to submit to the tyranny of that man, he being in unfortunate circumstances, and not having the assistance of any organisation.

29831. The man was obliged to work longer hours than he otherwise would?

Yes.

29832. But is it not difficult to break down the system of long hours, as long as low wages necessitate men working those long hours, in order to have enough to live upon?

I think if the men would not work, except for a fair rate of wage, they would have no occasion to work for long hours.

29833. You think a fair rate of wage could be attained?

Yes.

29834. In fact, you think that the men might attain a higher rate of wages and yet work less hours?

If we got them to understand the value of organisation, we could get them up to the point of working a proper number of hours, and receiving the proper wage for the number of hours.

29835. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You think that if you achieved that, you could obtain the same wages for less hours?

Yes; if I or workmen like me can do it, it ought to be in the power of other men.

29836. That would depend partly on the nature of the trade, would it not; you might drive the trade away altogether by insisting on it?

No, I have no fear of that; we are more likely to drive it away by making it so cheap and breaking down the health and constitution by working so many hours.

29837. *Chairman*.] You object to the outworking, but you admit, I think, that you do not see any way in which it could be put a stop to by law; but do you think it would be any use, or do you think it would be sufficient if all places where work was carried on were subject to the Factory Act regulations, and all places where work was carried on had to be registered?

Certainly.

29838. You think that would do?

Yes, that would be a very great improvement.

29839. Is there much more female labour employed now in the trade than formerly?

Certainly.

29840. Chiefly in making vests?

Vests and trousers, and in some instances coats. Trousers are going very much into the hands of the female employees.

29841. Do they work principally in their own houses?

No, they work at the sweaters. Men take the trousers from firms at a stated figure. There are several cases that have come under my notice where men take the trousers from firms in Manchester which would pay to the inside workman from 4 s. to 7 s., and take them to make them at 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per pair all round: employ female machinists, pay them from 3 s. to 3 s. 6 d. per dozen for doing a certain portion of machining, and pay to the other females from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 4 d. for finishing the trousers.

(11.)

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29842. Have

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Mr. QUINN.

[*Continued.*

29842. Have you any objection to female labour?

I have no objection to female labour, only in the same sense that I have to foreign labour. I think if female labour is marketable or suitable, it ought to be paid at a proper price, and if a female can make a garment equal to the male, why should she not be paid the same price for the garment if it meets with the approval of the wearer and the master.

29843. I suppose the selling price of these goods has gone down considerably of late, has it not?

Not in clothing. If a gentleman requires a suit of clothes to-day he will have to pay for it, a suit of clothes of really good quality, I mean; but if he only wants an imitation for the time being he can get them cheaper.

29844. You mean that the best class goods remain at about the same price, but that the common class goods have gone down in price?

Yes.

29845. But that there is not such good value in them?

No, certainly not, neither in material, nor in trimmings, nor in workmanship.

29846. Do you consider that there is room for paying better prices for labour without materially increasing the cost of production?

Yes, I believe there is. I believe that there are many firms who execute a really good class of trade, who pay a rate that is considerably less than what they could afford to pay, and yet leave a respectable margin of profit to the firm. They are paying less now than they ought to pay; they could pay more and leave a respectable profit to the firm at an increased rate of pay from what they are paying at present.

29847. You have not got a copy of that report which you spoke of just now, have you?

Yes (*producing it*).

29848. Some of this report refers particularly to so-called sweating, does it not?

Yes.

29849. Is there anything you would like to say to the Committee; any suggestions you have to make, or anything of that kind?

I should like to speak about the long hours of labour in connection with the trade in general. In fact there are some of our shops in Manchester, which we look upon (and they are so termed locally) as the light-houses of the trade; and men who go there to seek for employment have to make up their minds that they will work these long hours or they need not go to seek employment there; or if they do and will not work these extraordinary long hours, their length of employment there will be very short indeed. Of course the society is trying to do all it possibly can to persuade the men to adopt the shorter system of hours, but unfortunately employers have a little power in their hands that we at present cannot overcome, but we do hope eventually to be in such a position as to induce our men to refuse to work unless in places where reasonable hours only are expected from them.

29850. What do you call "reasonable hours"?

From six to seven in the summer, and from seven to eight in the winter, with meal hours out.

29851. But you do not recommend, or do you recommend, any State interference with the hours of labour?

No; I would not care to ask the State to interfere with the hours of labour. I think that the various organisations in connection with the trades of the country are sufficient of themselves to bring about a better state of things than exists at present. I would rather see it done without the aid of the State.

29852. Is there anything else you wish to say?

No.

29853. Lord

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[Continued.]

29853. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you think that is the general opinion in your district; that they would rather this was brought about by their own instrumentality rather than by the instrumentality of the Legislature?

I have not had an opportunity of getting information which would enable me to give an answer to the question as put by your Lordship as to the general opinion of our society?

29854. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] But do you know whether there are many people who hold the same views?

Certainly.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. GEORGE KEIR, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

29855. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?

General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors.

29856. Are you a tailor by trade yourself?

Yes.

29857. Are you working at the trade now?

No.

29858. You are the secretary of the Amalgamated Society, you say?

Yes, general secretary.

29859. Have you held any other office or offices in the society?

Yes; I was district secretary in London for about seven years before I went as general secretary to Manchester; also branch secretary of the Lisson Grove Branch in London, previously to becoming district secretary in London.

29860. Is the head office in Manchester?

Yes.

29861. Then you live in Manchester, I suppose?

Yes.

29862. Have your society made any special inquiries as to alleged sweating in your trade?

Yes; in July 1887 we issued a circular to our branches calling upon them to investigate the condition of the town with regard to the sweating system. From many of these branches we have received reports, some of which I have with me; and we did so with a view to expose the system, as far as we possibly could within our society, in perhaps pamphlet form, or by reports, and perhaps in other ways. Public meetings have also been held in various towns, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, and other of our large towns, on the question of exposing the system of sweating in these towns.

29863. Was not there a conference held some little time ago of the various branches of your society?

Yes, in August last, at Belfast.

29864. Did that deal with this so-called sweating?

Yes, there were several resolutions passed there on the question.

29865. How many delegates were there at that Belfast meeting, do you know?

One hundred and thirty-two, representing one in each 100 of our membership. A long discussion took place on the sweating system, and the minutes (I have not got the minute-book with me, but these are the published minutes, not exactly, perhaps, so full as they are in the minute-book) are to this effect: "That in the opinion of this conference the evils of the sweating system are so enormous and widespread, that in order to give protection to the various

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[Continued.]

industries brought within the provisions of the Act, the strict enforcement of its clauses, and the following amendments are imperatively required." Then the amendments follow to the Factory and Workshops Act and the Trades Unions Act.

29866. Those are the Acts alluded to in the resolution?

Yes. "The strict enforcement of Sub-section B. of Clause 15" (that is in the Factory and Workshops Act), "commencing with the words 'a workshop.'" This clause of the Act we wish to be enforced.

29867. You think that portion of Clause 15 ought to be enforced?

Yes. "Also the enforcement of Sub-section B. of Clause 61, commencing with the words 'where the occupier.'" That, of course, deals with the domestic workshop question.

29868. Quite so. I am to understand then that at this delegates' meeting they considered the Act sufficient, but that it was not sufficiently enforced?

In that respect, yes.

29869. Because they did not recommend any amendment of the Act?

Not in that respect.

29870. Then what was the next?

Then the second resolution was the repeal of the 69th clause.

29871. That is the clause putting a restriction on inspection?

Yes.

29872. What would be the effect of repealing that?

The effect would be that the factory inspector would have power to enter any premises without going before a justice of the peace, if required to do so, and giving an affidavit before he could enter the house. Supposing a man occupies two or three rooms, or one room, in a house as a workshop, it is a workshop; but if he lives in the house this clause deprives the factory inspector of the power of entering the house until he goes before a justice of the peace, and by affidavit gets an order to enter the house.

29873. Then am I to understand that it was the opinion of this meeting that the inspector should be able to enter at any time?

Yes.

29874. Any place?

Yes; any place, if he has a suspicion that there is a room in that house occupied as a workroom.

29875. You would allow him to go into any man's room, or any woman's room at any time of the day or night, would you?

I think discretion might be used, and the factory inspector would use discretion.

29876. But you would give him the power to go into any man's room at any time of the day or night, if he thought that work was carried on?

Yes, I think so; with qualifications, perhaps. I do not think unlimited power should be given to him to enter the bedroom of any person; I think it would be injurious to grant that power; but, at the same time, if he had a suspicion, or had evidence laid before him that a room in that house was occupied as a workroom, he ought to have power to enter that workroom without having to go before a magistrate and swear before getting an order to enter it.

29877. Why? Because you think that by the time he had been to a magistrate, the thing might have been remedied?

Yes, the thing might have been completely changed by that time.

29878. And what other resolutions were there?

The third resolution that we passed was: "A clause to make the registration of workshops compulsory."

29879. That

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[Continued.]

29879. That such a clause should be introduced?

Yes; the same as in the 75th clause of the Act. You will see that it is necessary that anyone opening a "factory" shall give notice within a month. There is no word there of "workshop." The way in which we would wish the Act altered is this: "Every person shall, within one month after he begins to occupy a factory or workshop, domestic workshops included, serve on an inspector a written notice containing the name of the factory or workshop, the place where it is situate, the address to which he desires his letters to be addressed, the nature of the work, the nature and amount of the moving power therein, and the name of the firm under which the business of the factory or workshop is to be carried on, and in default shall be liable to a fine of not less than one nor more than 5 *l.*"

29880. What do you understand by "domestic workshop"?

I understand a domestic workshop as a room occupied as a workshop by a male or female of the family, and perhaps by other workers in the same house as they live in.

29881. Motive power or no motive power?

Motive power or no motive power.

29882. Members of the family or not?

It is a serious fact that members of a family oftentimes have to be protected against the parents, just as out-workers have to be protected against the masters or employers.

29883. You mean by "domestic workshop" any place where a man was working, or a woman, and where there were only members of the same family?

Family or other parties. A domestic workshop is a house where a room may be used as a workshop by such persons.

29884. What I want to know is whether you consider that a room where a man or a woman is working, and where some other members of their family are working, but nobody else, is included in the domestic workshops as you speak of them?

Yes.

29885. But you would not include the case of a man or woman working by themselves?

No, certainly not.

29886. Do you know what the meeting understood by a "domestic workshop?"

One such as I have described; a workshop or a room in the house used as a workshop by members of the family in any trade.

29887. Were any other resolutions passed at that meeting?

Those were all. Of course it was a very broad discussion, a very wide discussion, and embraced a very large amount of subjects.

29888. I only want you to allude to any part of the discussion that bore upon this question of sweating?

Well, we think that if these amendments were introduced in your report or in an Act, that would do a great deal to do away with the sweating system which unfortunately exists so largely. I have here reports from various branches, Birmingham, Sheffield (I see you had the Sheffield evidence before you the day before yesterday), Hull, which is certainly the port where all this misery, or nearly all of it, commences, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, Manchester, Liverpool, and our large centres of industry in London, in the East-end and West-end, where the system prevails or obtains to a very great extent. I have got the reports from them here, but they are late now, and might not be of service to your Lordships.

29889. When were they made?

One thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

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[Continued.]

29890. Do you suppose that the condition of things has altered materially since then?

For the worse, I think.

29891. Would you put in those reports in evidence if they were required. Yes, with pleasure.

29892. You spoke just now of Hull as the place where "all the misery commences"?

Yes.

29893. What do you mean?

I mean that that is the port of debarkation for the Germans, the Poles, the Russians, and the various European nationalities. Men come over here, as I am informed, and I have come across some of them myself, who are literally unacquainted with our trade; they may have saved up a few pounds in Germany or in Poland, or wherever they come from; they go to an impecunious man starting in business, say in Manchester, or in any of our large centres of industry, and deposit with him perhaps 10 £., 15 £., or 20 £., and he gives them work out to that amount; they do not know how to make the work; they know no more about the trade, perhaps, than this paper in my hand does; but they get someone that does know; and they, by sweating the people who do know, get a profit out of their labour. There is a man in London now drives his carriage, and 15 years ago he was carrying glass on his back with one of these boards, through tailoring in the East-end of London. I daresay you will have that case before you in evidence.

29894. Do you consider this foreign immigration is largely the cause of sweating?

Yes, most decidedly.

29895. Was that question discussed at the delegate meeting?

Yes. Of course it does not appear here in the abbreviated minutes, but the question was fully discussed, that that was the cause, to a very great extent, of the sweating system as it existed, and (we look at it perhaps in a personal way, naturally we would do so) that the sweating system is the great cause of the reduction in our wages, and it is a great cause of retarding the advance of wages, where an advance ought to be given in many cases, because as soon as there is an effort made in any of our towns to advance wages, or even to resist a reduction of wages, a whole flock of these foreigners get into these towns and do the work, while our men are walking about the streets fighting for what they consider is only a fairly weekly wage; and I think it would be confessed by all that the wages of the journeymen tailors in England are not too large.

29896. Where do you consider this foreign immigration to be most severe, in what towns?

In Hull; it is a very large place; I think there are over 200,000 inhabitants, 230,000 I think, or something like that, and there are only between 40 or 50 English tailors in it. I am told the rest are all foreigners. Also in Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield (not to a very large extent, not to so large an extent as Leeds and Manchester), Liverpool, and certainly, London; the East-end of London, especially is crowded with them.

29897. You complain as regards that, as I understand you, that in the first place men with no practical knowledge of the trade at all get into the trade, get out work to be made, and get labour very cheap to make it for them, making a large profit out of it themselves, though they have no knowledge of the business whatever?

Just so.

29898. And they are, I presume you would say, acting really as middlemen in those cases?

That is so; men who may have saved up a few pounds and deposited it in the hands of a man starting in business for instance. It is of assistance to him

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[Continued.]

to have this money in his hands, and it is a security for him that the work will be returned to him.

29899. Then you complain also that the labour itself is too cheap, and that in consequence of that cheap competition you cannot hold out for what you consider a fair wage, or obtain what you consider a fair advance when the state of the trade admits it, because you are always subject to the importation of this cheap foreign labour which breaks down what you consider a fair rate of wage?

Yes, most decidedly.

29900. You say in Hull it is very large, and in some other places small; would a comparatively small quantity of cheap labour affect prices largely?

That would depend upon the size of the town.

29901. What I mean is this. Supposing you had a certain number of tailors working at a fair rate of wage, say 100 men if you like, or 500 men, would the fact that a comparatively small quantity of foreign labour might be introduced at any time have an effect in breaking down their prices or in paralysing their combination?

It would have an appreciable effect, no doubt.

29902. Even though the quantity of cheap labour was small?

Even though it was small; but whether it would have the effect of reducing the wages is a question that would depend upon the circumstances surrounding the case. There is no objection on our part to foreign labour; the only objection is to foreign labour carried on under circumstances that really are detrimental to the interests of our own countrymen.

29903. What do you include in "interests;" do you include anything beyond wages; I mean do you think that this foreign labour works under conditions detrimental to morality, or anything of that kind?

Yes, decidedly, when the men are herded and work together under circumstances against the customs of English people altogether.

29904. What do you think ought to be done about this question, anything; I mean on the question of immigration first of all?

I hardly know that it would be wise to stop immigration; that would be an unnatural and hardly a fair way of doing the thing, but I think it ought to be regulated in some way, and that the poorest, and the most miserable, and the most unskilled perhaps of foreign labour, ought not to be thrown upon the markets of England to oppose, and to act detrimentally to, the interests of the English people. I do not think it would be wise, and I do not know that we could advocate, and I am sure any intelligent man would not advocate altogether, the complete prohibition of foreign labour, but at the same time I think there must be, or ought to be, some means devised whereby skilled labour should contend against skilled labour in a fair and straight market. It is not skilled labour against skilled labour, it is poverty thrown in our midst, and it is a poverty competing with itself, as it were, and struggling in that way. And the manner in which they can live, the food which they eat, and the circumstances under which they live, of course deprive them altogether of the comforts of home, you may almost say, as far as Englishmen or Scotchmen, or Welshmen are concerned.

29905. Have you anything to say about this out-working?

Well, we admit out-workers into our society in many of our branches; some branches prohibit them, but in most of our branches we admit them. In all our London branches (we have 25 branches in London) out-workers are admitted; one or two are exclusively out-working branches. These out-workers, of course, are understood to be men not sweaters; we do not admit sweaters or middlemen.

29906. Have you any opinion about it yourself; I should like your own private opinion about it, speaking unofficially?

(11.)

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I think

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[*Continued.*]

I think it is a deplorable fact that out-working does exist, and were the men aggregated and congregated together, I think it would be far better for their own interests and also for the work that was done; the work would be better done, because each one would see what the other was doing, and, consequently, would be able to compete with, or try to equal, the better made work.

29907. We have it stated in evidence that masters would prefer work to be done indoors for many reasons, among them those you have just mentioned, that the work would be better done, and so on; but that they found it necessary to employ out-workers because they could not depend upon the in-workers working; that they might have an order and the men go off on the spree and they could not get it done; and it has been also stated to the Committee that the out-workers were, generally speaking, more respectable men, that they would be working out in their own homes because they did not like the surroundings of the shops. What is your opinion about that?

I consider that that statement (I read it yesterday) is a complete libel on the men who work indoors in the shops. There is little doubt of it that the employers get men to work out for the very reason that they can get them to work at a cheap rate of wages. I have been in the workshop that I used to work in here, some years ago, before I went to Manchester. To-day there are about 160 tailors employed in it; and I never knew, all the years that I worked in that shop, one man to lose a day's work through drink; and there are nine workshops on that firm in Bond-street. I never knew one; and I am sure, taking the men who work indoors all round, that they can compare very favourably with the men who work out.

29908. You would say that, in your opinion, there is no difference between them?

I can say that the man who works out is more likely to be the drunken man than the man who works indoors; because the man who works indoors is under the eye of the foreman and the employer and the other men in the shop; and, if he is away, everybody knows. The man who is a worker out of doors can go and drink all day, and then work all night. I should certainly say that the men who work in shops are the more steady of the two.

29909. Now you have mentioned various amendments in the existing Factory Act recommended at this delegate meeting; do you agree with those recommendations so far as your private opinion goes?

Yes, most decidedly.

29910. You alluded also to the Trades Union Act?

Yes.

29911. What have you got to recommend about that?

In the Factory and Workshop Act there is another point which I would first like to mention if you would kindly allow me to call your attention to it. The Act clashes between the factory inspector and sanitary inspector in various ways. The factory inspector can only enter a workshop where females and children are employed or youths under a certain age; yet he has no power to interfere with the sanitary arrangements of that shop, further than as to whitewashing and so on. Then before any action can be taken the factory inspector, suppose he sees any defective sanitary arrangement, or opens his eyes to it, or wants to take any notice of it, has got to communicate with Mr. Redgrave, or with the chief in the locality where he may be, and then to Mr. Redgrave, and then back again to the sanitary inspector; all that has to be done before any action can be taken. With regard to the sanitary arrangements of the shops, what we think might be a wise thing to do would be to include a provision in the Act, or new recommendations, that the factory inspector should have power in a workshop where males only were employed, to see that the same arrangements were carried out as where children and women were employed, the same power as a sanitary inspector has under the Public Health Act of 1875. This would be a recommendation, as far as the Factory and Workshop Act is concerned.

29912. I do

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[Continued.]

29912. I do not know that you need mention it unless some special resolution was passed ; I understand from you that your opinion, and the opinion of your society generally, is that greater power should be given to the factory inspectors with regard to sanitation ?

Yes, to see that it was carried out, or to see that there was a readier method of having it carried out than the round-a-about red-tape system.

29913. In fact, you are of opinion that the method is clumsy at present ?

Yes.

29914. Now, as to the other Act you alluded to, the Trades Union Act ?

I have not the Trades Union Act with me. There is nothing particular in the Trades Union Act that we think would require altering. If these alterations take place in the Factory and Workshop Act that would almost meet the case. We could propose, and might suggest, many alterations that we would like to take place ; yet it is just possible that they might not be obtained ; and it would be wildness to suggest many things which our reason tells us would not be obtainable at the present time.

29915. It is unwise to ask more than you are likely to get, you mean ?

That is it.

29916. Are most of the members of your society in the bespoke trade ?

Nearly all.

29917. Are the hands employed in the ready-made business members of any association at all ?

No ; ours is the only association in England connected with the tailoring trade.

29918. Then you have nothing to do with the men employed in the wholesale businesses ?

No ; because the men who are employed by the slop shops, or ready-made shops, and wholesale shops or warehouses are usually men who have degraded themselves, from the position of men who are able to make a garment satisfactorily to an employer or customer, have gone down to a low position, and consequently have merged into that state that they do not care to belong to any society, and they do not care for themselves, almost ; they get their wages every night in most cases and go to the public-house and use them there.

29919. I forget whether I asked you whether you would propose to limit the hours of male labour at all ?

We should very much like to limit them, but the question is whether they should be limited by Act of Parliament or by our own individual efforts ; and I think the general opinion is, my own individual opinion is, that they ought to be limited by ourselves. If we saw the necessity for it, we ought to do it, the same as the engineers and carpenters have done, reducing their day to nine hours throughout the country ; the working hours in our trade, except in Sunderland and Newcastle, and other small towns surrounding them, is 12 hours a day.

29920. Have you any opinion as to the value of technical education, or with regard to the absence of apprenticeship ?

Apprenticeship now is a different thing from what it was years ago ; the apprentice is nurtured or learns his trade in our small towns, and in every small town throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland each small employer that has apprentices has some machine likewise, and the machine now does the work that the apprentice in former years used to do ; consequently when the apprentice has served his time, he naturally gravitates into the large towns, and he is not able to compete with the men who are able to make a garment all by hand ; he cannot make a garment all by hand. For instance the edge of a coat, he could not stitch that so well as if he were brought up entirely to sew by hand.

29921. Do you think that any steps can be taken to supply the deficiency to which you have pointed ?

I do not really know what steps could be taken to supply that deficiency.

(11.)

T T 4

29922. You

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[*Continued.*]

29922. You do not think anything could be done, or do you think anything could be done, in the way of technical schools or technical instruction?

Yes. I may say that I was on a committee in London three years ago with regard to an inquiry made by the Merchant Tailors of the City of London, but we could come to no arrangement regarding it; there were employers and foremen, and I was the only journeyman tailor on that committee. They thought of opening a large workshop, a sweating shop you might call it; a large workshop in the West End of London, and getting work out from the various firms in the West End of London, having someone to superintend the workmanship, and teach young men from the country, perhaps, how to get a garment up properly. Of course we opposed that, because we could see that in our large workshops in London a young man coming from the country has as great an opportunity of becoming perfect in his trade if he keeps his eyes open and tries to succeed, as he would have in any technical school at all. We could see that this was merely a beginning of a system of sweating which could be used, and would be used for the benefit of the employers entirely, and to the detriment of the workmen generally. I do not see how a technical school could be carried out. If it could be done without damaging the trade and without reducing wages it would be a very great advantage to our trade, or to any trade.

29923. Lord *Basing.*] You spoke of the great advantage of obtaining the restrictions you described upon the importation of foreign labour, and restrictions upon the hours of labour, and of increasing the power of the inspector; you think that would be of advantage to the work, to the master, and to the operative manufacturer?

Yes.

29924. Should you say that it would be an advantage to the consumer; have you thought of the interests of the consumer, how far then might be prejudiced by over restraint?

It would be advantageous to the interest of the consumer thus far, that he would most certainly have a better made article for his money than he would under the present circumstances.

29925. In other words, has not this cheap tailoring, taking it in the largest sense, been an advantage to the working population of this country; is not clothing very much cheaper than it was say 20 years ago?

Most decidedly it is cheaper.

29926. Could that result have been brought about without some of the drawbacks to which you have alluded?

When you mention cheap tailoring it means this, that 30 years ago before foreign labour attained the same proportions as it has now attained, and before machinery was introduced to the full extent that it is now, a garment might have cost 5 s. or 10 s. more than the garment would cost to-day, but it would have lasted twice as long.

29927. There is an advantage in cheap articles of common use, I suppose; at all events the public think so?

Of course it is new for a day, it is old to-morrow. Thirty years ago it was new for a year.

29928. You do not believe, then, that there is any public advantage in unrestricted competition as applied to the tailoring trade; advantage to the consuming public, I mean?

I do not think there would be.

29929. Would you apply that principle to other articles of production?

It is already almost applied to other articles, I think, in engineering, for instance; in carpentering, and in the various skilled trades of the country, I think it is almost altogether applied; but unfortunately, ours being such a simple trade, anyone can pick it up.

29930. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] You think, as far as I make out, that a large

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Mr. KEIR.

[*Continued.*]

large workshop is a better place for a boy to learn to be a tailor than anything in the nature of a school ?

Yes, decidedly.

29931. On what grounds do you think so ?

On the ground that a boy among a number of men sees the way in which each man makes his garment. Each one in our trade has a different way, a different system of making his work ; and if a boy is to become acquainted with the trade, and thoroughly practical in making his garment he has to see the various methods that each one adopts to do the thing quickest, and do it the best.

29932. But do not you think that a skilled instructor might show him at once the way to do it ?

Yes ; but supposing he were to go into another shop to work (he cannot always be in the technical school) he would have to alter his method altogether and do it another way.

29933. Why should that be ?

It is so as a fact.

29934. Do you mean that no two shops do their work the same way ?

Certainly, they do not.

29935. Therefore nothing but the shop itself would be of any use to him ?

In the shop himself he would see the various methods adopted, and in the technical school he would see but one method, that is the difference.

29936. *Chairman.*] Is there any other suggestion you would like to make ?

No ; I think it is no good asking for too much. These points that I have alluded to, I think are almost all we can expect to obtain at present.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday next,
Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 30^o Maii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of DERBY.

Viscount GORDON (*Earl of Aberdeen*).

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord ROTHSCHILD.

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord THRING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MRS. MARY ANNE MITCHINSON, is called in ; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows :

29937. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?
Tailoring.

29938. Do you work for a large house?
Yes ; a large warehouse.

29939. Have you ever worked for any of the smaller shops ; what are called
middlemen ?

It is a Jew's shop where I work ; but it is a very large place.

29940. I suppose he does work for other people, does he ?
Yes.

29941. Do you know how many hands there are employed in the shop ?
I have never taken it exact, but I know there are 31 altogether.

29942. Have you always worked for Jewish masters ?
Yes.

29943. Never worked for any of the large master clothiers ?
No.

29944. Do you prefer working for the smaller masters ?
Yes, if I go on as I am ; I think I should.

29945. Why do you prefer it ?
Well, I have had a very good master, and very good hands to work with, and
I have never had any trouble.

29946. Do you think you earn better wages than you would working for the
large master clothiers ?

Yes ; because the Jews pay better than the inside master clothiers do.

29947. How long have you been working at this trade ?
I have been working at it about five years altogether.

29948. Did you get any wages paid for the first six months ?
Yes ; I got wages the first week.

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Mrs. MITCHINSON.

[Continued.]

29949. Then did you know the trade when you went to work?

I went to the very low trade first, only about 3 s. a-week; but now I have got higher up.

29950. You began at 3 s. a-week?

Yes.

29951. How long did you earn 3 s. a-week?

For about six months.

29952. And then you got gradually raised?

Yes.

29953. And what can you earn now?

We only work from Monday till Friday dinner time, and we can earn from 14 s. to 16 s.

29954. All the year round?

Yes.

29955. What are your hours of work?

From eight to eight.

29956. Do you take any work home?

Sometimes, but very rarely.

29957. Are you paid by the piece or by time?

By the piece.

29958. You are paid the same, I suppose, for what you take home as for what you do in the shop?

Yes.

29959. Have you got a sister working with you?

Yes.

29960. Do you know what she is earning?

She has not been very long at this trade; what she is doing now is the machining.

29961. Do you know what she earns?

Nine shillings she earns; she has only been ten weeks on the machining.

29962. And what branch of the trade are you doing?

I am a feller hand.

29963. Is the shop comfortable?

Yes.

29964. And clean?

Yes.

29965. Men and women working in it?

Yes.

29966. Do they work in separate rooms, or all together?

It is all in one room, but different tables.

29967. Do you do anything except felling?

And finishing.

29968. Have you always worked in Leeds?

Yes.

29969. Do you think that the wages that you have mentioned that you can earn and that you got paid when you first began, are about the same as other women can earn?

Yes.

29970. You do not think that you are a better worker than most of them?

Yes; I am on the measured work; the order work.

29971. You

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Mrs. MITCHINSON.

[*Continued.*]

29971. You are doing the best-paid class of work, you mean?
Yes.

29972. What I want to know is whether you think that there would be a great many girls and women working at the trade who cannot earn as much as you do?

There are a great many that cannot earn as much.

29973. And I think I understood you to say that at no time did you work for nothing?

No, no time at all.

29974. You always got paid?

Yes.

29975. At the beginning?

Yes.

29976. Never less than 3 s. a-week?

No.

29977. Are Jews and Christians all working together in your shop?

Yes.

29978. And get on quite comfortably together?

Yes, very.

29979. They do no work on Saturdays and Sundays?

No.

29980. The shop is closed.

Yes; it is closed on Friday, and we get paid at four o'clock.

29981. Till Monday morning?

Yes. Sometimes the Jews work on a Sunday, and then the shop is open; but not else.

29982. Lord *Monkswell*.] I suppose you had learned something of sewing before you went there?

I had been a good time at sewing, and when I first went there they had no trouble with me.

29983. So that you were rather an unusually good hand at first?

Yes.

29984. I suppose some girls would be paid nothing at first?

No; you would have to go the month without anything.

29985. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You had learned sewing before you went there?

Yes, at school.

29986. What school were you at?

At St. Charles's.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

SAMUEL REUBEN, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

29987. *Chairman*. | WHAT is your trade?

I am a tailor.

29988. What branch of the tailoring?

A presser.

29989. Were you born in England?

No. I have been in England eight years.

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[Continued.]

29990. Where did you come from ?

I came from Russia.

29991. Were you working at tailoring in Russia ?

No.

29992. You learnt the trade here ?

Yes.

29993. Did you come straight to Leeds ?

No ; to London.

29994. You learnt your trade in London ?

I have been a year and a-half in London.

29995. Then did you go straight to Leeds ?

Yes.

29996. What made you go to Leeds ?

Because I could not make a living in London ; so I came to Leeds.

29997. Who told you about Leeds ?

Our people told me Leeds was a better country to work in than London.

29998. Did you have any money when you came to London ?

Yes ; I brought it with me, 2 *l*.

29999. How did you get work when you came to London ?

I did not get any wages when I first came to London. I was learning six weeks for nothing ; then after that I got 6 *s*. a week.

30000. For how long ?

For about six months I got 6 *s*. a week.

30001. And after that you earned more ?

Yes ; I earned 12 *s*. a week.

30002. And then you went to Leeds ?

Yes.

30003. And what can you earn at Leeds ?

I can earn from 4 *s*. 6 *d*. to 5 *s*. a day.

30004. I suppose you had friends in London when you came ?

No.

30005. How did you find a man to give you work ; to take you on at all ?

There were countrymen that gave me some work.

30006. How did you find them out ?

Somebody showed me ; a man that was taking me about showed me the places, and then I got it.

30007. You mean that a man told you when you landed ?

Yes.

30008. Can you do anything except pressing ?

No.

30009. Are you working for any large shop ?

No ; in a small shop.

30010. For what is called a middleman ?

Yes.

30011. How many are employed ; do you know ?

About 12 or 15 hands.

30012. How many pressers ?

Only myself.

30013. How

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[Continued.]

30013. How many under pressers ?
One.

30014. What do you pay him ?
I pay him 2 s. 6 d. a day.

30015. I think you told us you could earn from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. ?
Yes.

30016. Do you mean that you have to pay 2 s. 6 d. out of that ?
No ; besides that, of course.

30017. And you are paid by the piece, I suppose ?
Yes.

30018. Men and women, of course, in the shop ?
Yes.

30019. Are there any Christians in the shop ?
Yes.

30020. Women ?
Yes.

30021. And what are your regular hours of work ?
The regular hours I work are from eight, sometimes till nine.

30022. From eight till eight, do you mean ?
Yes ; but sometimes I am working from eight to nine, or till 10 o'clock.

30023. Have you ever worked later than 10 ?
Yes.

30024. Up till how late have you ever worked ?
Sometimes till 11.

30025. Have you ever worked up to 12 ?
On Thursdays I have worked till 12 sometimes.

30026. Have you ever worked up till two or three o'clock in the morning ?
Oh, yes.

30027. And all the year round you can earn from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. a day ?
No, not all the year.

30028. What is the busy time of the year ?
In the busy time the highest that we can make is about four days, or four and a half days.

30029. Do you work on Sunday ?
No.

30030. Is the shop closed ?
No. The pressers do not work, but all the machiners and tailors work.

30031. You do not work on Saturday ?
No.

30032. So that your full week is five days ?
The full week is six days, from Friday to Sunday ; but we are not working the whole week, because we cannot get ready on Sunday ; we start sometimes on Monday dinner-time, sometimes on Wednesday.

30033. I thought you said you never worked on Saturday ?
No.

30034. Or Sunday ?
No.

30035. Therefore your fullest time in every week would be five days a week ?

We never make five days.

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[Continued.]

30036. What do you make when you are quite busy ; four ?
Four days.

30037. And what do you make in the slack time ?
A day and a day and a half, and for many weeks the place has been shut.

30038. And what do you do then ?
We go to the pawnbrokers.

30039. You do not do any other kind of work ?
No.

30040. You are out of work altogether ?
Yes.

30041. How many weeks do you suppose in the year you have no work at all to do ?

I think about three or four months, sometimes up to five months.

30042. Nothing at all to do ?
No, except sometimes a day, or a day and a half, or two days.

30043. Do you belong to any society ?
Yes ; I belong to the Tailors' society.

30044. Is that a Jewish society ?
Yes.

30045. Are you married ?
Yes.

30046. Have you got a family ?
Yes.

30047. Does your wife work at the trade too ?
No.

30048. Do any of your children work at the trade ?
No.

30049. You have to support them all ?
Yes.

30050. I suppose wages are higher at Leeds than they are in London ?
No ; in London it is higher wages than at Leeds. I do not think you can find in Leeds in the tailoring trade any case where a man gets 6 s. a day.

30051. Why do you not come back to London then, if you can earn more in London ?

Because my missus does not like it ; she does not like London at all ; that is what it is. If she wanted to go, I would go any time back to London.

30052. I suppose you know a good many men working in your trade, do you ?
Yes.

30053. Do you think they can generally earn more than you can, or less than you can, or about the same ?
About the same wages that I earn.

30054. I suppose they are all paid by piece, the same as you ?
No ; they get paid by day wage.

30055. Why is it you are paid by piece ?
Because after the strike that there was last year, the master sent me away, and I could not get a shop. I had to go idle for nearly three months, and I got relief from the Jewish board of guardians, and I could not get a place, and I was obliged to try to get some work. Then I came up to a small place, and they told me, " If you like you can work on piece." Very well ; I was obliged to do it.

30056. But

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[Continued.]

30056. But you would sooner be paid by time?

Of course it is not better by time. Supposing the master pays by time, he takes the men by the shoulder and drives them like slaves.

30057. Then do you mean that you would sooner be paid by the piece?

Yes. If I work piece I will earn sometimes 3 s. a day, and sometimes 4 s. It is better than when I work by the day.

30058. Then you would sooner work as you do now?

Yes.

30059. Were you working in a larger place before the strike?

Yes.

30060. How many hands did they employ?

About 90 hands.

30061. In a factory?

Yes, about 24 machines going.

30062. And what could you earn there?

I could earn there 5 s. a day.

30063. But did you have to work harder there than you do now?

Yes. It often happened that when I came in to work, say, on Monday (we must work on Monday like other times), when I have told the master, "You see I cannot make overtime, I am not so well;" he has told me, "If you cannot work overtime you must leave the place."

30064. How much overtime did they want you to work?

Sometimes, if it was busy, they would work three hours, sometimes two hours overtime, sometimes from 8 till 10, sometimes from 8 till 11, when it was busy.

30065. Then I understand you that when you were paid by time, the master drove you too hard?

Yes.

30066. And that you would sooner work by piece?

Yes.

30067. And you can earn about the same, perhaps not quite so much?

Yes, not so much; but I can earn the same wages.

30068. When you and the other men were working overtime in this large shop were the women working overtime too?

The women took it home.

30069. So that when the men are working overtime in a shop the women are obliged to take work and do it at home?

Yes.

30070. Is that the custom, do you think?

Yes.

30071. Have you worked in many shops in Leeds?

Yes, I have worked in three or four shops.

30072. And that is the way the work is generally managed?

Yes.

30073. You have worked in three or four shops, you say; were they generally comfortable and clean?

Yes, in some shops it is very clean; but in some shops that are not large enough; it is only middling.

30074. Do you think the hours of work ought to be restricted, that men ought not to be made to work overtime, as you say you have done; do you

(11.)

X x

think

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[Continued.]

think there ought to be any limit put on the number of hours that a man is allowed to work?

I do not rightly understand the question.

30075. You have complained that when you were working and paid by time you were driven very hard and made to work overtime.

Yes.

30076. Would it be a good thing if men were not allowed to work overtime?

It is better if a man does not work overtime; but the master says to him he must work, and he cannot help himself; and if you do not, you get the sack from the shop.

30077. Have you ever worked for any of the large houses?

Yes.

30078. Large clothier houses, I mean?

No, I never worked for the large clothier houses.

30079. Always for somebody who took work for somebody else?

Yes.

30080. How many years have you been in Leeds?

Six years.

30081. Are there many Jews that have come into Leeds in those six years; Russians, Germans, and so on?

Yes.

30082. Coming from abroad or coming from other towns in England?

No, from Russian like.

30083. Going into the tailoring trade?

Yes.

30084. Do many of them go into other trades?

No; if a man comes to Leeds he goes into the tailoring trade.

30085. Why?

Because he cannot get another trade.

30086. That is the easiest trade to learn?

Yes, that is the easiest trade. It will take him four weeks or six weeks to learn, and afterwards he will get something to live on.

30087. Earl of *Derby*.] I think I understood you to say that you could get about the same wages working by time or working by the piece?

Yes.

30088. But you prefer working by the piece?

Yes.

30089. That is, I suppose, because you are more free, more your own master?

Yes.

30090. When you work by piece, I suppose you can begin when you please and end when you please?

Yes.

30091. And I suppose you would object very much to have any restriction put upon you as to the hours you should work when you are working for yourself?

Yes.

30092. You would not be in favour of limiting the hours in any way?

No.

30093. Not when you are working of your own choice?

Just so.

30094. *Chairman*.]

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SAMUEL REUBEN.

[*Continued.*]

30094. *Chairman.*] You said that now you are working by piece you can begin when you choose and leave off when you choose?

Yes.

30095. Can you work as late as you like in the shop?

Oh yes.

30096. Supposing you want to work and the others do not?

Well, I can do it.

30097. What time do you generally go to work?

We go to work about seven o'clock and give over at eight.

30098. I do not know whether you quite understood the question, because you told me just now you thought it would be a good plan if men were not allowed to work overtime?

Of course you must excuse me, because I cannot so well speak English.

30099. I want to know what you mean, because you told Lord Derby just now that you thought it would be a hard thing if you were not allowed to work in the shop as late as you like?

If you can prevent them from working overtime it is better. I am not so well up in English; you must excuse me.

30100. We only want to find out what you mean. Is there anything you want to say to the Committee?

I want to say no more.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

JACOB ABRAHAM, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

30101. *Chairman.*] How long have you been in Leeds?

Four years.

30102. Did you come from London?

No; from Germany.

30103. You came straight from Germany?

Yes.

30104. What branch of the tailoring do you do?

Plain machining.

30105. Was tailoring your trade in Germany?

No.

30106. You knew nothing about it at all when you landed?

No.

30107. What made you go to Leeds?

Because my father got a promise from the German town hall. He was not allowed to remain in Germany because he was not born in Germany.

30108. Your father had to leave?

Yes.

30109. Did your father come to Leeds?

Yes.

30110. What made him come to Leeds more than to London, or anywhere else?

He did not know where to go, so he came straight to Leeds.

30111. Where was your father born?

In Russia.

(11.)

X X 2

30112. But

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JACOB ABRAHAM.

[*Continued.*]

30112. And then he went from Russia to Germany?

Yes.

30113. And you were born in Germany?

Yes.

30114. Then your father left Germany and came to England?

Yes, he came to Leeds.

30115. You do not know why he came to Leeds. Where did he come from; Hamburg?

From Memel.

30116. And what port did you come to; London or Hull, or where?

From Memel to Leeds.

30117. The ship did not land you at Leeds; you did not go to Leeds in the ship?

No.

30118. Where did you go to in the ship?

We went from Memel to Stettin, and from Stettin to Hamburg, and from Hamburg to Hull, and from Hull to Leeds.

30119. What did you do when you got to Hull; did you work at the trade in Hull?

No.

30120. You went straight on to Leeds?

Yes.

30121. Had you, or your father, any friends in Hull?

No.

30122. You do not know why you went to Leeds?

No, except that he did not know where else to go.

30123. How many in the family are you?

Six.

30124. All living together?

Yes.

30125. When you got to Leeds, what made you take to the tailoring?

Because I did not know what else to do; I could not get any other work.

30126. Did you have any friends in Leeds?

No.

30127. Did you go to the Jewish Board of Guardians?

No.

30128. When you arrived in the train at Leeds, how did you find any work at all; how did you know who to go to; what did you do?

Somebody showed me; a man showed me where to go to, and I had to pay half-a-quid for learning a machine. The man asked fifteen shillings, but I gave him half-a-quid.

30129. A man told you of a man who would teach you machining for "half-a-quid"?

Yes.

30130. First he wanted 15 s., but you had not got it?

Yes.

30131. And you gave him half-a-sovereign?

Yes.

30132. How long did you work for him?

Four weeks.

30133. You

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JACOB ABRAHAM.

[*Continued.*]

30133. You got no wages during that time ?
No.

30134. What did you do then ?
I left that shop and went to another shop, and worked for 6 s. a-week.

30135. How long did you work for 6 s. a week ?
Nearly a-year.

30136. And what happened then ?
I got to be a plain machinest, and I got more.

30137. Was that in the same shop, or did you go to another shop ?
I went to another shop.

30138. What did you get then ?
Two shillings, or 2 s. 6 d., or 3 s. a day.

30139. Then what are you earning now ?
I earn from 3 s. 6 d. to 4 s. a day.

30140. Are you working in a large shop ?
It is a big shop ; there are about 12 or 14 machinists.

30141. How many hands would there be in the shop altogether ?
Thirty to 35.

30142. How many men ?
About 20 men.

30143. And only 15 women ?
Yes ; or 18 men and the rest women.

30144. What time do you go to work on Monday ?
Eight o'clock.

30145. And till what time do you stop ?
Eight o'clock ; from eight till eight.

30146. And on Friday ?
On Friday sometimes I do not work at all ; sometimes all day, and sometimes half the day ; sometimes a couple of hours, sometimes an hour.

30147. And on Saturday ?
Saturday nothing at all.

30148. Sunday ?
Sunday sometimes ; it is like Friday ; sometimes there is work and sometimes is not.

30149. Are they all Jews in the shop ?
Where I am working there are some Christians as well ; there are two Christian men inside.

30150. Any Christian women ?
Yes, five or six.

30151. How do they manage when there is work going on on a Sunday ; what do they do ?

The Christians are not in the shop ; they do not work. Sometimes there are Jews working from eight till one o'clock on Sunday, and they take home work for all day.

30152. Do you work overtime often ?
Sometimes ; sometimes till nine or eleven.

30153. When you say the work is taken home, do you mean the men take work home ?
No ; the women.

30154. Is this what you mean to say, that the Christian women do not work
(11.) x x 3 on

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JACOB ABRAHAM.

[Continued.]

on the Sunday, but that they take home work to do instead of working in the shop?

No; they do not work at all; the Jewesses, I mean.

30155. Do the Jewesses take home work on the Friday or Saturday so that they may keep pace with the work that is going on in the shop?

Yes, I have seen that; not in the same shop, but somewhere else. They take it home on the Friday and fetch it back on the Monday.

30156. I suppose there is a slack time of the year in your shop, is there not?
Yes.

30157. What do you call the busy time; how many months in the year?
About two months.

30158. What is the busiest time?
Four days and a-half.

30159. What part of the year is the busy time of year; the summer, or winter, or when?

It is sometimes in the summer and sometimes in the winter.

30160. Can you tell me when the busy time begins?
Before Passover, and before Christmas sometimes.

30161. When you are very busy how many hours a week will you be working?

I work four days, or three and a-half days; four and a-half days sometimes, according as the work is coming in.

30162. When you are not busy, how many days a week?

A day and a-half; a day sometimes, sometimes nothing at all; many weeks I have nothing to do at all.

30163. Are you paid by the piece or paid by the time?
I have got paid by the time.

30164. Have you always been paid by the time?
Yes.

30165. You have never worked by the piece?
No.

30166. I suppose you could not tell me, could you, how much a week you could earn all the year round on an average?

Sometimes 5 s., 6 s., and sometimes nothing at all.

30167. How many shops have you worked in?
Three or four shops.

30168. What was the smallest; how many people were working in the smallest?

Ten or twelve people in the smallest.

30169. Were they clean comfortable shops?

Yes, sometimes; some shops were clean, and some were not. Many shops are not clean.

30170. You have never worked in any other town but Leeds, have you?
I have been working in Manchester.

30171. How long in Manchester?
One week.

30172. Why did you not stop there?

There were too many hours in the week; they were working from four o'clock in the morning till three or four o'clock in the night.

30173. Did you not earn more for that?

Four

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JACOB ABRAHAM.

[Continued.]

Four shillings and sixpence a day; that is all. There are not regular hours at all. Some work all the night, all at the same wage.

30174. Does the man that the shop belongs to work himself in your shop; does he do any work himself?

Yes.

30175. What does he do?

Sometimes he drives the workmen; he tries to get more work out of them.

30176. You mean that he superintends; that he looks after the work?

He looks after the men.

30177. You mean he sees that they work hard?

Yes; they have to work very hard, like a slave, through the day.

30178. What happens if they do not work to please him; they have to go, I suppose?

Yes, they have to go; he gives them the sack.

30179. You say that you have been in Leeds four years; have many people come from Germany in those four years?

Yes; there were a lot that went out from Germany; 5,000 or 6,000.

30180. Do you mean that there are 5,000 or 6,000 Germans in Leeds?

Not in Leeds; some went to America, and some went to Russia.

30181. But have many of those people come to Leeds in the last three or four years?

There are not so many coming to Leeds.

30182. Do you mean not so many men as when you first came there?

They all went back to Russia, nearly.

30183. Is there anything you would like to say to the Committee?

No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES HENRY SWEENEY, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

30184. *Chairman.*] WERE you born in England?

Yes.

30185. What is your trade?

I am not in the tailoring trade; I am in the boot department; I have been secretary to the Jewish Tailors' Trade Society for a number of years.

30186. You are secretary to the Jewish Tailors' Trade Society, but you are not a tailor?

Yes.

30187. How did you come to be secretary?

Through organising the branches with the assistance of other gentlemen.

30188. You are not a Jew?

No.

30189. When was that society formed?

It has been formed on several occasions; but the one that I formed will be as far back as seven years ago, between seven and eight.

30190. And that is lasting still, is it?

No, it lasted up to the last dispute, and I am sorry to say they were compelled to close it.

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[Continued.]

30191. By "the last dispute" you mean the strike last year?
Yes.

30192. And your society has broken up since then?
Yes.

30193. Altogether?

Altogether, with the exception that a week or two ago it has been re-organised.

30194. How do you account for its breaking up?

By the manner in which the middlemen used their force against the work-people that belonged to those branches in connection with the society. They would not engage a society man under any circumstances if they could help it. When they found a society man they used all force and pressure to remove him from such shops as they had, and under no circumstances could we get men to join or stick to their various branches on account of expecting to be turned out of the shops which they were getting a living from.

30195. Do you mean before the strike or after the strike?

After the strike. Before we had such a thing as a strike, we were 1,000 strong; eight months after we had about 150; about a month or six weeks ago we diminished down to two members, that was the chairman and one of the committee-men of a branch; and under no reasonable persuasion would they take notice of joining, on account of the masters, and the way in which the middlemen used to manage the men and threaten what they would do if they belonged to the branches.

30196. I understand you that before the strike the society numbered about a thousand?

Close upon a thousand.

30197. That since then it has practically broken up altogether?
Yes.

30198. And that you attribute to the action taken by the middlemen in consequence of the strike?

That is so.

30199. And you say that the middlemen and masters would not give any work to members of the society?

Not if they found out that the man was a society man.

30200. And that they turned them out?
In many cases.

30201. And what has become of them all?

They had to leave the branch, and in many cases tear up their contribution card in front of some of the middlemen to show them that they would not belong to the branch any more. I have known that to happen in several cases.

30202. How long have you been in Leeds?
I may say for about 23 years.

30203. I suppose you know nothing about the tailoring trade; I need not ask you any questions as to that?

Well, I have as much experience and more than some brought up in it.

30204. How so?

Through investigating certain branches of it years back; and I have taken great interest in it since, as far as the various branches are concerned, and the various systems we have for getting those ready-made clothes up to be sent back direct to the warehouse. I have taken a great interest in this, and I have pointed out certain grievances connected with it, and have drawn the attention of the warehouse firms more than once to the system which is carried on by the middlemen, the tyranny and blasphemy in the shops which they

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[Continued.]

they are over, with no respect for females any more than males, no respect for the smallest child that is under their control, no more than for the largest workman; and we have not only spoken of it in the branches, but we have had it mentioned in the Press.

30205. What was the object of the strike last year?

The object of the strike was to try and get less hours, and to make the middleman have better arrangements in his shop, and more respect for those that work under them.

30206. How is the ready-made clothing trade carried on?

Well, it is carried on to a great extent by a system of nothing but bribery, and it is not practical men that get this work from the warehouses.

30207. First of all there are large warehouses?

First of all there are large warehouses, such as Messrs. Barran and Sons, a Member of the present House of Commons. He is one of the leading ones that employ people in that way.

30208. And there are several large warehouses.

Yes.

30209. How do they get the work done?

By cutting them out and putting them together in large bundles, and giving them out to the middleman, and letting the middleman take them home to his large workshops and so on; and he, in return, gives them out to a fitter-up; from the fitter-up he hands them to the machiner; from the machiner, in some particular branches, it goes to the under presser; some other parts of the garment go to the tailor, what they call a tailor, that is, a baster out, and a baster under him; then they go back again to the machiner, what they call a piecer-up; then there is the lining maker that pieces linings before they are put into a garment, to be stitched together and made up ready to be sent to the presser. Then the presser presses the garments off, and that is calling pressing-off, and they have to go through the finishers, feller hands and button-hole hands, and then they come to, what they term, a brusher off; the garments then being all ready for going to the warehouse.

30210. You said that he sends it to the machinists, and sends it to these different people; is not all the work carried on in the one shop?

Yes.

30211. They are all different branches, and they have all a certain amount of work to do?

One does not make a garment through; one makes a certain part of it; there are certain parts made by certain individuals; not one who makes it all through.

30212. How does the middleman get paid by the warehouse?

So much from the warehouse, 1 s., 1 s. 6 d., 1 s. 9 d., and upwards, according to the quality and to the workmanship they have got to put in it.

30213. How does he pay for the work?

He pays so much a day; from a girl, a small basting puller, at 6 d. a day up to a feller hand that will take 1 s., 1 s. 6 d., and 2 s. a day, a finisher that will taken from 2 s. a day to 2 s. 6 s. a day, a machinist whose wages run very irregular, some might take 2 s. a day, 2 s. 6 d., and 3 s., and 4 s., a day, and some 5 s. a day, both male and female. The majority are male; there are exceptional cases where females get them.

30214. Do you mean that most of the machining is done by men?

Yes.

30215. And the master finds all the thread, and so on?

He finds such things as thread and various materials, barring certain quantities of frilling, such as binding, stay tape, linen, and shoulder padding; that is found by the firm.

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[Continued.]

30216. The hands do not have to find anything?

No, the hands do not; with the exception of the button-hole hands where they are pieced.

30217. And the general custom is to pay by time?

Yes; the general custom is to pay so much per day.

30218. Then you said a little while ago that you were going to say something about the system of bribery; what do you mean by that?

I mean that the system of bribery which extends to the majority of warehouses, and to one warehouse in particular, is a system that brings on this great evil which is connected with sweating in Leeds; and I have this on wish authority from one who was a middleman for a large number of years. I good to give his name if it is advisable.

30219. I do not want the name?

He was a large middleman for a number of years, and he worked in this particular warehouse, and he publicly stated this; and it has been publicly exposed in the Press on the 9th of May last, 1888, that this system of bribery did exist in those warehouses; a system of bribing the managers and certain foremen to get work out of those warehouses, by those who in the majority of cases are unpractical tradesmen. The great majority of those that get this work from the warehouses are not practical men.

30220. That is another thing altogether, is it not. What I understand you to say, so far, is that these middlemen bribe the foremen of the warehouses in order to get work?

Yes, that is the case.

30221. And supposing they do, you say that that is the cause of the evils which exist in what you call the sweating system?

Yes.

30222. Why?

Because they have to take out so much more profit than what they would if they were to get it by legitimate means. If they were to get it by fair and honest means they would not have to leave the amount of profit they do. I have known, in certain instances, middlemen that have been small middlemen, and could not afford to adopt this system of bribery, say that if they could bribe managers in the way others do they would be able to get more work out. And in the majority of warehouses there is this connected with it: a few men can get the quantities, and the others have to keep their shops closed, and cannot get any work, while the first-named are pretty regular in work.

30223. I understand you to say that it is difficult for the middleman to get work without bribing, and that if they do bribe, they have to take it out of the wages that ought to go to the hands?

Undoubtedly; because they have no capital to start with, and it must come out of the labour of the hands.

30224. Now as to the hours of work in these shops; is all the work done by the middlemen carried on in shops of some considerable size?

Some of them, and they lately are of larger proportions than what they used to be some years back to my knowledge.

30225. They all would come under the Factory and Workshops Act?

I would like to speak of that a little later on in reference to the sanitary and factory inspectors' duties in those shops.

30226. But you can tell me now whether this work is carried on shops that come under the Factory Act or in the people's own homes?

It is carried on in shops under the Factory Act, and the great proportion of it is in domestic workshops, as I term them, that is, taking work home.

30227. This is all the ready-made trade that you are speaking of?

Yes, I am speaking of the ready-made trade.

30228. What

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[Continued.]

30228. What about these workshops, are they in a proper condition ?

I may state that we denounced them something like 12 months ago as being in a very unhealthy state and in a very filthy state, the majority of them, and we also drew the attention of our borough authorities, the sanitary authority, to the matter: and on many occasions have notified the inspector, both the factory inspector and the sanitary inspector of things that we thought were not right.

30229. What do you mean by "We," the society ?

Yes; the representatives of the society and the men belonging to it. And we also had a commissioner from the "Lancet," Mr. Smith, that investigated into a lot of those sweating-shops, as we claim them to be, with regard to their sanitary condition; and I might state myself, the same as Mr. Smith reported, that the filthy condition of those shops should not have been allowed then; but I must state this, that since then there has been a great alteration. But our sanitary authorities at Leeds at that time tried to whitewash the thing over that did exist, and make the public believe that we were simply getting up those cases; but still at the same time they must have known that such things did exist in Leeds.

30230. What was the matter with the shops ?

Filthy and unclean, and bad accommodation for males and females. In many of the shops where there have been 30 and 40 male and female hands, I have known only one accommodation; and in one particular case, the Ship Inn yard in Briggate, where there is such a thing as three or four shops, and each shop having only one accommodation for males and females.

30231. How many hands would there be in the shop ?

In one shop I should say were 40 males and females, from small girls up to grown women and men; and the condition in which those places were kept was really a cruel one; and there were many more besides that in the various parts of the borough.

30232. These places you visited yourself ?

I have seen those places myself on more occasions than one.

30233. And you say that formerly they were very bad, but now they are getting better ?

In some cases; but still there are some great nuisances yet.

30234. What are the hours of work in these shops ?

The present hours of work for the under-presser, that is, a man learning his trade, and who has not been in the country very long, are as a rule from 6 o'clock or 7, to 8 o'clock at night, with an hour and a-half for meals, and getting his breakfast the best way he can. The presser works from 8 to 8, with an hour and a-half, and sometimes they allow him, but very rarely, to get a little breakfast in the shop. The tailors work from 7 to 8 o'clock at night, with the same hours for meals as the pressers. The machinist (a woman) and the machiner (that is the male) work from 8 to 8, with an hour and a-half for meals. The feller hands and finishers also those same hours and an hour and a-half for meals, and button-hole hands the same.

30235. Button-holers, I presume, are paid by piece ?

Yes, in the majority of cases, I believe.

30236. All the others by time ?

Yes, all the others by time, with the exception of a few shops, I am given to understand, where they are on piece.

30237. Those are the regular hours; do they work overtime often ?

Very often; in some shops all night; and some shops have begun to make a system of all night work, that is, the latter part of the week, such as Wednesday and Thursday; they allow the men to do nothing on either Sunday or Monday in the majority of cases, and they get it out of them in the latter end of the week.

30238. What object can it be to them to crowd the work into the latter part of the week ?

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[Continued.]

The only object I can see, in many cases I have had my attention drawn to, is this, that when they go to the warehouses and see that there is not sufficient work to run them through the three or four days, they allow that work in many cases to stand till another cutting comes out and they get sufficient work to carry on for three days or for three and a-half days, and instead of taking that cutting on the Saturday and allowing it to be fitted up and partly done of a Sunday so that the pressers could start on the Monday morning, it is not taken away from the firms until the Monday, and many times they do not allow the presser to start, or the tailors, till the Tuesday morning or Tuesday dinner-time; and then by cutting another lot of work out they try to rush this work through so that they will be able to get it in by Friday noon or Friday before their Sabbath comes on.

30239. What do you mean by "cutting"?

The garments; they come out in so many garments to a cutting.

30240. How many?

Some cuttings run different from others. And they are put then in bundles, as I have stated before, and given out.

30241. But I do not understand now what object it is to the middleman to wait till another cutting comes out, and rush the work through in the last few days of the week?

If they take work out for two days and give the hands two days' work, and then cease and close the shop for a day and start again, they lose a lot of time, and it is very inconvenient to them; whereas, if they can get the work to go through with, without any break off, then they can get more quantity of work put through their hands.

30242. What do they pay when working overtime?

The same as the ordinary time, the tailors.

30243. When you say that they work overtime very frequently, do you mean that they work more frequently than they are allowed to under the Act?

I mean as far as the men are employed, not the women; my statement does not apply to the women; it is the males that work those long hours, the overtime.

30244. If the men work these long hours of overtime, how is that part of the work done, which is done by the women?

It is taken home at night and done at home. They leave off at eight o'clock, their ordinary hours, and I have known them to work till 12 or one o'clock, before they would be able to get to bed, owing to the quantity of work they have taken home; and I have known women to object to this, and they have been given to understand that if they did not take this work home, as it was wanted for the presser on the following morning to take it into the warehouse, they must find another shop; I have known several women to protest, both married and single.

30245. How do the women who take it home get paid?

Threepence or fourpence; so much a garment according to the amount of work.

30246. A woman is paid by time, you mean, when working in the shop, and piece-work when she takes it home?

Yes.

30247. And that when the men are working overtime in the shop the women are working in their own houses?

Yes.

30248. So that, as far as the women are concerned, they might just as well be working in the shop?

Undoubtedly; and far better in one sense, I should say.

30249. In

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[Continued.]

30249. In what sense ?

Because I believe that the houses of the people would be kept a great deal cleaner. Allowing the work to stop in the shops, I consider, would prevent a lot of the disease that in many cases is caused by taking work into houses where there are great diseases, and I have known it myself in more cases than one. By taking the quantity that they do I hold that there is a tendency to create disease and spread it more than otherwise.

30250. Are these middlemen you spoke of, as a rule, practical tailors or not ?

No, the majority of them are not practical tailors, nor practical machiners, nor practical pressers ?

30251. Do you mean that the majority of them do not work at any practical part of the trade at all ?

Well, they slightly learn some part of it, but very slightly indeed, the majority of them.

30252. And how do they get to be middlemen ?

By the system I spoke of, of getting into the warehouses and bribing some of the managers, and producing a coat, and stating that they can make this coat at such-and-such a price. I have known men that are middlemen to-day go into the warehouse and offer to do the garment for so much less than the middlemen that were employed in that warehouse.

30253. You mean there is a great deal of competition among them ?

There is.

30254. But do not the middlemen who are practical tailors have a great advantage over a man who is not a practical tailor ?

A man who is a practical tailor has not the slightest advantage unless he uses some methods that we claim are not just.

30255. I asked you whether a man who is a practical tailor and a middleman has not an advantage over a man who has no practical knowledge of the trade, and is a middleman ?

I have known practical men not capable of getting work out of the warehouses, and they would not allow them to have a garment off the warehouses, and at the same time I have known men that had to learn the trade receiving the best class of work that could be got in Leeds from the best warehouses.

30256. Are the middlemen mostly Jews ?

All Jews as far as the ready-made trade goes in reference to the coat department.

30257. You say you have known Leeds for the last 23 years ?

Yes. I am only 32 years of age.

30258. Then I suppose during the first few years you had not much experience of the tailoring trade ?

No ; but I can go back to eight years ago.

30259. Has this state of things lasted the last 10 or 15 years ?

Yes ; and it was worse in some instances than it is to-day.

30260. In what way ?

The longer hours of labour. Only so late back as four years ago they used to work from seven in the morning until nine at night.

30261. Has the number of Jewish middlemen increased this last five years ?

Yes, a great deal this last 12 months.

30262. I understand you that the coats are entirely in their hands ?

Yes.

30263. And how are the vests and trousers made ?

The vests are given out to Christian middlemen, in the same way ; and the trousers in the majority of cases are made up in the warehouses.

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[Continued.]

30264. Is there no system of out-working; is not some of the work done by people working in their own rooms?

Yes; but that is confined to the warehouses; they take up juvenile suits, such as small coats, and trousers, and waistcoats, and they make them at home.

30265. Do they not make the waistcoats at home?

Yes, a deal of them.

30266. In their own houses?

Yes, in their own houses.

30267. Do you see anything objectionable in that?

I see an objection in this, that I think it holds the houses, in many cases, to a very filthy state, and in many cases causes a creation of diseases that would be put down providing that that evil was done away with.

30268. You object to the out-working on sanitary grounds?

I do.

30269. But on no other?

On no other, unless it is excessive hours of working, which they generally do practice. I have known them to work as late as 11 and 12 o'clock at Leeds.

30270. Have many Jewish immigrants come to Leeds in the last few years?

Yes, to my knowledge that has been going on tremendously.

30271. Coming from abroad, or from other towns in England?

Mostly from abroad; the great majority of them could not say more in English than using the word "Leeds" in their way of using it, and have no other knowledge of the English language.

30272. How do they get to learn the trade?

They get to learn the trade by a system of friends supporting them, the friends getting them in among the middlemen, and the middlemen in many cases taking advantage of them by getting them to learn under-pressing or tailoring. Then they go so many weeks for nothing. I have known them to go as long as two months for nothing, and they have to be supported in that two months by their friends and relations, and many a time supported by the Jewish Board of Guardians we have in Leeds, and until they have a slight knowledge of the under-pressing they get no wages, and then they start them with 5 s. or 6 s. per week, sometimes less than that, and they have to then continually work their way up until they are capable of getting their 10 s. or 12 s. a week.

30273. Is this immigration increasing or decreasing?

It is increasing; it has increased for the last five years to my knowledge.

30274. Largely?

Largely, very extensively, in Leeds.

30275. Then how were these coats made before?

There never has been the number made in Leeds that there is at the present day, and it is a trade that has been increasing I should say, in the town, wonderfully these last 10 years; more so than in any other town in England.

30276. How do you account for that?

I account for it by the system they have of making these garments up. I do not think that there is any town in England that has got a readier system of making garments up in large quantities than Leeds.

30277. And this system has been perfected by the Jewish middleman?

It has been perfected by the manner in which they carry it on.

30278. Then is it your opinion that if the Jewish middlemen did not exist there, and had not perfected the trade in that way, the trade would not be in Leeds at all?

My

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[Continued.]

My opinion is not that; my opinion is that the trade would have increased just as much, because there is various accommodation in Leeds that they have not in other places.

30279. As for instance?

In the way of the rates not being as high. I am pointing now to the wholesale houses and buildings. They are more convenient than I believe they will be in other parts of the country, as being what I should call better accommodated for the arrangements required.

30280. You think Leeds has greater natural advantages than other towns?
Yes.

30281. And advantages in lower rents and rates?

Yes; and people have better accommodation in being able to get hold of workshops at less rent than they would in other towns.

30282. You think that the same amount of trade would be done if there were no such people as these middlemen at all?

I think the same amount of work might be done if the middlemen were removed and other things put in their place; either work from the firms under proper systems, or the work being let out to the men direct under some co-operative system or another; I think that then they would be better prepared to turn out and make healthy, clean, and well-made garments, than they are under the system of drivery, the tyrannical system that the middleman uses.

30283. When you speak of the middleman being "tyrannical" what do you mean?

I mean because of the system he pursues in his workshop of taking neither male nor female into consideration, and the foul and filthy language which he uses. I must say that I could not for a moment think you would believe half of what I have seen myself (and no man would believe it without he saw it), the filthy language which these men use; I might say which nine out of every 10 of them use towards all, even from the smallest little girl up to the principal hand in the shop; and the way in which these men go up and down the workshop is nothing more nor less than like a wild beast, raising up their hair with their hands, as though they were not right in their heads, and taking nobody that is under their control into their consideration.

30284. You think the masters ill-treat the hands?
They do in many cases.

30285. And drive them too hard?

And drive them too hard indeed for any man to be driven; not only a girl.

30286. Why do the people put up with it?

Because they cannot help it. We have tried to cure it by organisation, and we have succeeded in many cases; we have lowered the hours in many cases, and have brought middlemen to understand what they should do to the work hands, and have compelled them in many cases to do away with a lot of the tyranny; but so soon as they get any power they are always prepared to exercise that power and break down any movement that the working man may attempt to carry out.

30287. Does your society object at all to the employment of female labour?

It is impossible to object to the employment of female labour, because the majority of the trade is carried on by females.

30288. Then I do not exactly understand what the strike is about?

I may state that the late strike, 12 months ago, was for the purpose of protesting against the tyranny that existed in the shops, and for shortening the hours, and for the better understanding of man and master, that is, to make society shops.

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[Continued.

30289. What do you mean by "making society shops"?

What I mean by making society shops is that the employer, that is the middleman, should know that he has society men working for him, and that there should not be this ill-feeling between society men, the middlemen, and non-society men that there has been.

30290. What hours did you want to restrict it to?

I believe, if my memory leads me right, we wanted to restrict them to 56 or 54 hours; I believe that will be pretty near it.

30291. You think that would be right, do you?

I think it would be more reasonable than it is at the present time?

30292. I want to know what you think is right?

What I think is right is that the hours of work now are too long.

30293. What do you think that the hours ought to be?

It is very hard for me to state what the hours ought to be.

30294. I do not want you to say anything that you have not made up your mind about; have you an opinion on the question?

I might mention something less for the number of hours than I have a right to.

30295. You have no objection at all to the employment of female labour?

Not the slightest, and I do not know that the workmen have any.

30296. Even though they work for less wages than the men?

No, they have no objection; I never have any complaints. The girls, as a rule, do work in certain branches of the trade that they can do, and which it would be impossible for the men to do, in fact, they would not do it, such work as felling and finishing they do not care about, nor button-holing. These branches are simply confined to female labour.

30297. Do you object, or did your society object, to women taking work home?

Yes, they have objected to it on many occasions.

30298. That you think is wrong?

I do think it wrong.

30299. That is to say, a women working in a shop you think ought not to be allowed to take work home?

She ought not to be allowed to take work home and to work till 12 and one o'clock as they have done, and on Sundays too it is taken home by the Jewish girls.

30230. Do you think it would be better if work were carried on by firms in large factories; if wholesale clothiers had large factories of their own?

Yes. Under what I should term proper conditions. But if it is to be under the conditions that certain of the large manufacturing firms are now introducing I and certain members of the late society disagree with it: that is the piece-work system which some of the warehouses are now trying to adopt.

30301. What is that system?

Getting a garment made up there under the same conditions under which the Jewish middlemen get them made up; that is by paying certain parties certain prices for the work they have got to do, and that is piece-work; and as we say that piece-work would bring some other great evils into existence, we strongly disagree with it.

30302. Have you any idea how many Jewish middlemen there are in Leeds?

I made a statement to Mr. Oram that there are from 60 to 70, but I find that there are as many as from 90 to 110, large and small; I think you can take it that way.

30303. Have

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[Continued.]

30303. Have you any idea how many hands they employ?

On an average taking it through, on a rough calculation (I do not wish to overstate it) the number will be between 3,000 and 4,000, both males and females, connected with the wholesale clothing trade under Jewish management, leaving out the direct warehouse employés.

30304. Is it the custom for the Jews and Christians to work together with these middlemen?

Yes, that always has been so to my knowledge; there never has been any distinction.

30305. And do they work comfortably together?

Yes, very comfortably indeed.

30306. Is it not inconvenient to the trade when work is carried on by the Jewish portion of the hands on Sunday, and no work is carried on by the Christians?

The Christian girls have many a time complained of the Jewish workpeople working on the Sunday, and they themselves not being allowed to have a day later; because in many cases they close their shops on Saturday; in other cases I have known shops to be open on Saturday for the Christian girls, and to be open on Sunday for the Jews, male and female. As they have work on Saturday in those shops some of the Christian girls could get a full week, and through being worked on Sunday some of the Jewish hands could get a full week, but that is only in very rare exceptional cases.

30307. I want to know does it not cause any practical inconvenience to have all hands both Jews and Christians working on a set of garments, on say the Friday, and that on Saturday the Jews should not be working, and on Sunday the Christians should not be working; would not that make a great inconvenience and confusion in getting the work made?

It makes it more convenient for the middlemen by the Jewish people working on the Sunday and not the Christians, because they turn out a given quantity of work, and get it ready for the Christian machinists and fellers, and button-hole hands, so that when they come in on the Monday morning they have a large quantity of work to go on with, and then they have an opportunity of getting it done, so that they will be able to take it up to the warehouses. This is where they have the advantage over the Christian girls working in these places.

30308. Can you give us the prices that a middleman gets paid for the various garments?

There are some I know that get paid as low as 1 s., and then for others they get 1 s. 3 d., 1 s. 6 d., 1 s. 9 d., 2 s., 2 s. 3 d., and upwards, I might say to 3 s., or 3 s. 3 d.

30309. What are these?

Some are coats, some are what they call double-stitched.

30310. But they are all coats?

Yes, they are all coats, different sizes and different qualities; some youths, some for grown-up men.

30311. Do you know what they pay for vests?

I have no knowledge what they pay for vests; our department is simply the coat department.

30312. Do you know what the hands get paid?

I have told what they average by the day.

30313. Do you know what they get paid by piece-work?

I have no knowledge, because it is only in a few isolated cases that this piece-work has got in. Since the last dispute, they have tried to introduce this system, and a lot of the men are bound to accept the system, whereas if they had the privilege to go in for day-work, they would not accept it. Some feel inclined to work piece-work, but the great majority would not.

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[Continued.]

30314. Does your society undertake to get work for men coming to Leeds?
No.

30315. Did it undertake to do so?

No, never; in fact we have objected to a lot of these foreigners coming in under this system of learning and giving two months for nothing.

30316. I asked you whether your society undertook to help men to get work?

No, we do not; we do not take them till we consider that they have been in the trade some time.

30317. I mean this: supposing you had a skilled man who had been in the trade some time, does your society undertake to assist him in getting work?

No, that is left to himself; but if we know that there is a place where they want such a man we notify him and send him there to get the place.

30318. I understand you to say that the trade has very much increased in Leeds?

It has.

30319. I suppose in your opinion this foreign immigration which you have spoken of has not turned any of the native workers out of the trade, because the trade has grown so much?

The trade has grown so much as far as what I call the slop trade is concerned, but in the bespoke trade I believe myself in has done a lot of harm in reference to that trade; but in reference to the trade these Jewish workmen are employed under I do not know that it has turned any of the skilled labour out, only on certain occasions.

30320. I want to find out from you whether, in your opinion, Jewish labour has turned out the Christian labour?

No, I do not think it has, out of the ready-made clothing trade.

30321. But do you think it has out of the bespoke trade?

Yes, I believe it has in many cases.

30322. Do you mean that the bespoke trade is carried on in the same way as the other?

No; what I mean is that many garments are got up in the bespoke shops that are given out to a Jewish middleman, and he makes them up at so much less than what the journeyman would do them for.

30323. Do you mean that clothes that are made to order are given out?

Yes.

30324. That though they are supposed to be made in the shop they are sent to be made up by the middlemen?

That is so.

30325. And that the middlemen will make them at a cheaper rate than an English journeyman tailor?

That is so.

30326. Lord *Thring*.] How long did your strike last?

I might state this, that it never was finished properly, the men had to give way; but it lasted between the middlemen and the workmen for about two months.

30327. Were the men entirely beaten?

Yes, they were beaten.

30328. I suppose that was on account of the great competition for labour?

It was on account of the system by which the middlemen tried to poison the minds of the Christian people, and make them believe that our strike was to exterminate Christian girls out of the trade.

30329. I do

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[Continued.]

30329. I do not understand what you mean. The middlemen could not have beaten the workmen, I suppose, if there had not been a great number of workmen in favour of the middlemen?

I am sorry to say that there is a lot of that, and that the middlemen can get hold of certain men and get them to work for them when there is a dispute, unknown to any of the officials of the society.

30330. Rightly or wrongly they get hold of a greater number of the workmen?

Not hold of the greater number; but at the time the dispute was the slackness of trade also came in, but if it had come on in a busy time such as takes place before Whitsuntide, and may occur in August, the middlemen could never have beaten the men if they had been united, and had stuck together.

30331. But as a matter of fact they were not united, they did not stick together, and so the middlemen beat the workmen?

Yes.

30332. The fact was, that the majority of the workmen were "poisoned," to use your expression, by the middlemen?

They were.

30333. In what way were they poisoned by the middlemen?

That, we could never get to the bottom.

30334. Is it not the great competition for labour that really enabled the middlemen to beat the workmen?

I should not think so.

30335. Earl of *Derby*.] Did I not understand you to say that the men would invariably prefer to work by time either than by piece if they had their choice?

Yes, the majority of them.

30336. Why is that; what is the advantage of working by time?

We hold that piece-work has a tendency to reduce prices to a level, such that a man cannot get a proper subsistence in the time, and also that he submits himself to work many hours over the time that he really would work providing he were working by day-work; and where I hold that the evil of the system of piece-work comes in is that it gives power to those that employ them to pull off certain prices; that it brings the prices down many a time to starvation.

30337. Does it not come to this, that piece-work gives a greater opportunity than day-work does to the good workman to get better wages than an inferior workman?

It holds that way; but in return we have it through experience, that if an employer of labour, Jewish or Christian, finds a man a practical tradesman, and a clever or exceptional man earning a good wage by piece-work, he then steps in and wishes to reduce the prices (and in many instances they do) and brings that man down so that he really is driven more into slavery than he would be if he were on day-work.

30338. Do I understand you to put it in this way, that if men were paid by time, they would be paid at an uniform rate, and it would therefore be less easy for the employer to reduce the rate?

I mean that if the men were paid by time, that is, by the day, so that they had better arrangements, it would be more healthy for them and more convenient than it would be by being paid by piece.

30339. You said something about the managers being bribed to give employment?

That is so.

30340. I presume that those managers are themselves under control, are they not; they are employed by the masters?

Yes, by the direct employers. And I might also state that we have drawn the attention of the direct employers (as I understand that I am not permitted

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[*Continued.*]

to give their names of course I will not) to it, not only by letter, but by deputation sent to those firms; and we have distinctly given them to understand the bribery that is carried on on their premises, and the manner which the middlemen have of getting out large quantities of trimmings, which we hold is nothing more nor less than robbery; and they have in many instances said, "Yes, we know that our trimmings are more largely given out than they should be, and we believe there is a certain amount of bribery, but we have a lot of inconvenience connected with this, and we will see into it"; and they promised to do that which they thought would be right in trying to bring about a better system, but I am sorry to say that this they have not done, or else it has not come to my knowledge that they have attempted it.

30341. But they are themselves the losers, are they not, by such a system? The direct employers some way or other cannot see into it.

30342. *Chairman.*] What are "trimmings"?

Binding, stay-tape, linen, buttons, and what they call shoulder-padding; all connected with making up the garments, and which the warehouse employer finds for the middleman, who makes them up; and in many cases he gets a deal larger quantity out than he has a right to get, or than is known to the firm; and when he does get those large quantities out, over and above what he has a right to, he sells these things to small trimming shops at the rate of 6*d.* and 7*d.* a pound the linen.

30343. That is a matter which would affect nobody but the employer? It affects the direct employer.

30344. Not the hands?
No.

30345. Lord *Thring.*] You tell us that when this strike began you had 1,000 men on your books?

Close upon 1,000.

30346. Then I cannot understand why 1,000 men did not resist; they could have resisted surely?

Our funds were not sufficiently strong to support them; while the funds lasted those men held out, but when the funds were done, the men could not stand any longer; and when we adopted the system of assisting them in small grocery shops (which to-day we have to pay for), the middlemen took upon themselves, on many occasions, to tell those small shop owners to give no more stuff to their Jewish workmen, or otherwise it would be worse for them.

30347. On credit you mean?

Yes, and we had to be security; in fact I had to be securities myself; there were 12 of us in number, for 20 *l.* When the fund was done we signed our hands for 20 *l.* for provisions, and we have had to pay it out of our own pockets, with no assistance from anybody.

30348. Earl of *Derby.*] What you mean, I suppose, is that the shopkeepers were warned that the men would not be able to pay for what they bought?

That is so.

30349. And that was the fact, they were not able?
No.

30350. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] You mentioned, I think, that you made some representations to the sanitary inspectors about the shops?

Yes.

30351. Did they proceed to alter the individual shops to which you alluded?

I may state this, that when we denounced the sanitary conditions they tried to ignore our statement, and made believe that such things did not exist, and I know of one man in particular, a member of the committee, sending a letter to one of the sanitary authorities and telling him that such things existed in such and such a shop, and he saw him personally, or wrote a letter, I would not like to

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[Continued.]

to say which, and he told him he would drop a letter to this particular shop, and if such things did exist he would see into it. Now as far as I am given to understand, this state of affairs went on for a long while before it was seen into. They also said that such statements as we made were wrong. If they were wrong then I should like to draw attention to this, that to-day there are a lot of accommodations that there were not 12 or even six months ago, as far as accommodations for males and females are concerned; and also there has been a difference in the cleanliness of the shops as well as in the election of additional sanitary inspectors; and if what we stated was untrue I hold that they had no right to elect those sanitary inspectors, because in that case the work they were elected to do was not there for them to do it.

30352. Your experience is that they did do a great deal?

At this present time they are doing it, but up to the time of the agitation they were not doing it.

30353. They did it unwillingly you mean, when they did it?

Yes, they did it unwillingly, I must hold; nothing else.

30354. In the shops where timework exists, are the men driven much?

No man would believe how much of that driving exists.

30355. One of the evils of daywork is that they drive men?

One of the evils of daywork is that they drive them, both male and female.

30356. By what system, when you are working under timework, do you ensure an equality among the workmen, that one man works as hard as the other?

Some men are better and more handy at the trade than the others.

30357. But if one man is idle?

If he is idle he has to go pretty handy; it is impossible for him to be idle under the Jewish system of management.

30358. Lord *Rothschild*.] Are you acquainted with Mr. Barran's works at Leeds?

Yes, I am acquainted with some of the middlemen that work there, and I have been personally to Mr. Barran.

30359. Have you worked for him?

No, I have not worked for him; I have been to him.

30360. He employs middlemen?

He does.

30361. Does he do any work in his own factory?

Yes, in his own factory too.

30362. Is it open on Sunday?

No; in his factory they are all Christians; but outside of his factory where the middleman is employed there are both Christians and Jews.

30363. Does he pay high wages?

He pays the highest wages on the garments of any warehouse I know in Leeds out to the middlemen.

30364. Lord *Monkswell*.] Lord Derby put to you that all the middlemen did when the strike was going on, was to warn the shopkeepers that their bills would not be paid if they continued to give credit to the men?

They did do that.

30365. But was that all that the middlemen did?

No.

30366. Did the middlemen in any way intimate to the shopkeepers that they would withdraw their custom if they gave the men provisions?

I have been told by one or two that they were given to understand to that effect, if they did not cease assisting the workpeople they would leave off dealing with them.

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[Continued.]

30367. You do not know that of your own knowledge?

No, not from my personal knowledge, only from reports that were given to me, which for my part I should strongly believe.

30368. Have you ever asked one of these shopkeepers whether that was so or not?

No, I never undertook to do that.

30369. Lord *Thring*.] Do you think you will be able to reorganise the union?

We have done it to a great extent this last week or two; they have come up in pretty fair numbers; and, unless we have some great inconvenience, I have no doubt we will be able to do it once more.

30370. What do you mean by "great inconvenience"?

I mean the methods which the middlemen adopt against the society; it is very inconvenient to us, and in many cases very mean on their part.

30371. *Chairman*.] How are these rates of pay settled; on time, so much an hour, or what?

They will, as a rule, reckon to pay so much a day; but they give out that they pay so much a week; but that is impossible under their system, because they do not work a week, except in exceptional cases.

30372. How is the rate settled?

We consider it so much a day.

30373. Who settles the rate?

The workman, the middleman, and the employer when he engages himself.

30374. If they do not think him good enough, they will say, I suppose, he is only worth so much?

In many cases they give him a trial, or if they have engaged him previously and know him, they give him what he asks; in some cases they do not.

30375. Under this system of paying by the day, if you had a good hand he would earn more than a bad hand?

Yes, and gets better paid than a bad hand.

30376. Just the same as if he were working by piece?

Yes.

30377. At the time of your strike, do you know whether any labour was imported into Leeds?

There were a lot that came through various towns, and went in and took the work of the men out on strike, such as from Manchester; and we had some from London as well that rushed in and took over the work. We consider them "scabs;" that is the term we apply to those who will work against the interests of their own fellow-men on a dispute.

30378. Did most of the men who went on strike get work afterwards?

Not in the particular workshops where they did work. Some of them had had to submit to great sacrifices, and in fact to-day some of them cannot find employment in the shops where they used to be, but do work at the smaller shops where there is less work for them.

30379. You said that the middlemen poisoned the minds of the people against the strike, by saying that the object of the strike was to do away with Christian female labour?

Yes, that was published in the press. That we contradicted. Such statements were never brought up by the Jewish working men, nor such words uttered.

30380. Is there anything more you wish to say?

I would like to make a statement, if you will permit me to do so, in reference to what not only I, but the Jewish working men of Leeds, and certain gentlemen who have taken an interest in this inquiry, consider an injustice. We consider that there has been some mistake or some gross injustice done somewhere or
another

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[Continued.]

another by cutting off certain important evidences and witnesses from attending before this Committee. I may make this statement; there is a gentleman, Mr. Marsden, president of the Leeds Trades Council, who has taken an active part in this inquiry, and assisted Mr. Oram while in Leeds; and he holds in his possession certain facts and figures connected with the way in which our borough authorities contract for their police clothing with firms in London, and those firms sublet them out to certain sweaters in London; he has got certain statements that I, for one, would have liked him to have stated.

30381. How do you know all this?

He has told me, and begged me to draw your Lordships' attention to it. And the Jewish workmen have also other witnesses who would have liked to attend this Committee with me and tell you certain facts that I am not prepared to handle direct, workmen who have held positions in this society, such as the present president and the late president.

30382. Why did they not come?

They have not been notified to come.

30383. Why did they not write and ask?

They were ignorant of the fact that they could get here without being notified.

30384. You did not know that you could write and ask to come?

We did not. I was asked last Saturday; I told them I thought your Lordships would not give your permission, but I am sorry (and I must state it) that those men have not been called, and I have no doubt but what they would have made a great impression upon the minds of the Committee by proving certain facts which they hold in their possession.

30385. It is difficult for the Committee to know by instinct that a certain man at Leeds would like to give evidence?

I do not mean that.

30386. I understand from you that certain men would have asked to give evidence if they had known that they might have asked?

Yes, they would, and be only too glad to come.

30387. Then you were saying something about the borough contracts?

Yes, we have those facts in reference to this which I am not prepared to go into; but Mr. Marsden, the president of the Leeds Trades Council, has those facts at his command, and would have liked to have pointed them out.

30388. What is the objection that the municipal contracts were put out to firms in London?

I believe it is somewhat on that line; I do not know it exactly; I was simply asked to point that out.

30389. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?

I should like to point out the arrangements of the Factory Inspectors, that they are not altogether that which I would like them to be and which the working men would like them to be. I refer to this: one of the Factory Inspectors was told about a certain grievance existing in a shop; that is, girls working at dinner hour and tea hour, and he told the men that put this to him that he would see the girls and ask them, and if they said such a thing did exist, then he had the power to take proceedings against the middlemen; but he said, "If they say they do not exist, I cannot take proceedings." I hold that that is a wrong way of inquiring into anything.

30390. You have told us that he said, "If they do not exist I cannot." But if they do not exist of course the Factory Inspector can take no action. What you mean, I suppose, is that he said, "If the girls say that they do not exist, I can take no proceedings"?

Yes, that he did not undertake to go and look for himself at the time when those parties told him that he would be able to drop on them and catch them working.

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[*Continued.*]

30391. What you complain of is that the Factory Inspectors have been remiss in their duty where cases have been pointed out to them?

I do complain of it on more occasions than one; and I think there could be some better arrangements made for them to do their duty; though I have no doubt that of late they have been stirred up to the duties they have to do and which they might have done a little more previously.

30392. Do you think there are enough of them?

I think there are not enough of them; not so far as I am concerned in Leeds. I think there is more work really than they are capable of and qualified for doing; that is, to do it in a manner that will do justice to all.

30393. Do you mean that you think the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act are largely violated in Leeds?

They are in many instances; and not only that, I have no doubt that cases could be brought of working on Sunday up to after four o'clock, and in many instances I have been told, up to six o'clock.

30394. Do you mean Christians?

No, Jewish work girls. Their hours of labour are from eight to four, and I am given to understand that if they work after four the factory inspectors have power to take proceedings against them; but there are certain of those middlemen that have many a time worked them till five and six o'clock on the Sunday night, and by reason of their not being informed of this, or knowing anything about it, they have not been able to take proceedings against them; and I believe if the staff of the factory inspectors were increased, they would be able to cope with these grievances better than now.

30395. As to the sanitation, do you think that the sanitary inspectors have done their duty?

They have not; but to-day I must state they are doing it better, but it was our drawing attention to it, no doubt, that stirred them up.

30396. Do you think it would be a good thing if the Factory Inspectors had some sanitary authority?

Yes, it would be a good thing; there could not be a better thing.

30397. Have you any other suggestions to make?

No.

30398. Do you object to what you call domestic workshops?

Yes, I do. I object to domestic workshops on those lines.

30399. On sanitary grounds?

On sanitary grounds, and on the ground of excessive hours of working.

30400. Do you think it would be sufficient if all these domestic shops were placed under the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act?

Yes, I should agree with that; and I think it would have the tendency of bringing about a better reform, and keeping the places in a cleaner condition than they are at the present time.

30401. I gather from you that what you think is, that the Factory Acts are all right enough, but that the Factory Inspectors do not see that they are carried out?

They do not, to a great extent?

30402. And that the sanitary regulations are sufficient, but that the sanitary authorities do not see that they are carried out?

I do not know that they are sufficient. There is great deficiency in them, because I can point out that these last few months they have erected certain accommodations for males and females to those places that never were thought of previously, and also their staff is increased to cope with all that, more so than 12 months ago.

30403. You think they have sufficient power if they would only use it?

Yes, I do

30404. What

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Mr. SWEENEY.

[Continued.]

30404. What you complain of is, not that the Acts of Parliament and the powers of the sanitary authorities are not sufficient, but that the Acts of Parliament and the powers of the sanitary authorities are not put in force?

That is it.

30405. Your trade is that of a bootmaker?

Yes, I am in the boot trade.

30406. Is there any thing of the same kind going on in the boot trade that does go on in the tailoring trade?

In Leeds not, there may be exceptional cases, but not to my knowledge?

30407. Nothing that you would call sweating?

Not to my knowledge. As far as going into that matter is concerned, I have taken very little notice of the trade; I only get my living at it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JOHN NEWHOUSE, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

30408. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your position?

Chief sanitary inspector for the borough of Leeds and superintendent of the sanitary department.

30409. How many have you under you on your staff?

I have 24 inspectors.

30410. Have you made any special inquiry latterly into the conditions of the shops of these Jewish sweaters, as they are called?

Last year, in consequence of the statements which appeared in the "Lancet," I paid a visit, by the instructions of the sanitary committee, to the Jewish workshops, and presented a report to them upon their sanitary condition.

30411. What was the result of your inspection?

I found some of them in an insanitary condition; the walls and floors dirty, a want of ventilation, and insufficient closet accommodation.

30412. Sufficient air space?

Yes. I have a copy of the report here, and I also have a report up to the present time, of the whole of the workshops in the borough. The Jewish workshops number 119, and the domestic workshops, or dwellings used as workshops, 31; total, 150.

30413. Just let me look at that report?

That is the report up to the 1st of April; a seven months' report. This other is a copy of the report I got out on 25th June 1888.

30414. Would this later one practically include the former one?

That is simply a summary of the workshops; their condition and population.

30415. Perhaps you will put these in?

Certainly. (*The reports are handed in. See Appendix.*)

30416. Generally speaking, would you say that the sanitary condition was fairly good, as a rule, when you visited them?

Yes, fairly good.

30417. Was any particular action taken on account of the inspection you made?

In consequence of the report, and the suggestions contained in the report, I had an inspector appointed specially for the purpose of superintending the Jewish workshops, and that portion of the borough in which the Jews reside;

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Mr. NEWHOUSE.

[*Continued.*]

that is the part of the borough called the Leylands; the majority of them, I think, are resident there.

30418. Are all houses that take in lodgers registered in Leeds?

The common lodging-houses are registered by the police, and they are under the supervision of the police. There are other houses which let off rooms, and are termed houses let in lodgings, they are registered by the sanitary committee, and an inspector appointed for the purpose of supervising them and seeing that the regulations are complied with.

30419. When you say they are registered, are they obliged to notify the fact that they are going to let rooms?

No; the district inspectors in visiting the houses in the locality find the houses where they take in lodgers or let off rooms; they report the circumstance, and then they are examined, and if found fit for registration they are registered, if they are not found fit for registration for the purpose of keeping lodgers they are not registered.

30420. But the discovery of the fact is left to the inspectors?

That is so.

30421. Do you think that they can ascertain the fact pretty accurately?

I think so. The borough, you know, covers 22,000 acres, and until recently, in fact, we had not sufficient staff for the purpose of visiting the houses. We have had five additional inspectors recently appointed.

30422. What powers of entering into a house have you to ascertain the facts?

The powers granted under the Public Health Act.

30423. You can enter into any house?

No; not unless we have reasonable ground to suppose that some nuisance exists; the powers of the Public Health Act only grant that permission.

30424. But you can enter if you have reasonable ground to suppose that they take in lodgers?

That is so; that is a nuisance within the meaning of the Act.

30425. Have you had to close any houses as to being unfit?

Yes.

30426. Many?

I cannot tell you the number; we have closed a great number of dwellings; when I say closed them, I mean we have prohibited them from taking in lodgers. We have closed a large number of dwellings unfit for habitation in addition.

30427. Closed them altogether as being unfit?

Yes.

30428. You mentioned, I think, 31 domestic workshops; what do you mean by "domestic workshops"?

The dwelling-houses used as workshops, where the members of the family work in the building that they occupy as a dwelling, and where they employ others also as workers.

30429. But do you include those places where only members of the family are employed?

Yes; any of the houses that are used as a workshop, even by members of their own family, we class as workshops.

30430. Do you mean that there are only 31 such places?

Only 31 domestic workshops.

30431. Including places where members of the same family work without employing any hired labour?

That is so.

30432. Lord

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Mr. NEWHOUSE.

[Continued.]

30432. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You mentioned that in most of these workshops the ventilation was, in your opinion, quite sufficient?

Yes; in the majority of them.

30433. What powers have you in case that is not so?

The powers granted under the Public Health Act with regard to ventilation, that is, providing sufficient ventilation, closet accommodation, and other sanitary requirements.

30434. Then would you have power to close the workshop if there was not sufficient ventilation?

No, I am afraid not; we should simply have power to compel them, that would be to give them notice, and if they failed to comply with that notice we should have to take them into court before the magistrate and obtain an order from the justices for the purpose.

30435. *Chairman*.] Have you any opinion as to this question of infectious diseases being spread by the system of clothing being made up by outworkers or by middlemen?

I have not found it so; and as far as the sanitary authorities in Leeds are concerned, they use every endeavour to prevent any spread of disease. As soon as the inspector finds out that there is a case of infectious disease in any house to which the clothing has been taken, I at once communicate with the firm from whom the clothing has been taken, we have the patient removed to the hospital, and the whole of the clothing of the house, and everything likely to retain infection, is thoroughly disinfected.

30436. What means have you of ascertaining where there are cases of infectious disease?

Simply by notification from the medical attendant, from the occupier of the dwelling-house, or from the inspector. We have no compulsory notification; it is all voluntary.

30437. Have you anything to say as to the hours of work, or anything of that kind?

No, I have not. I have simply to say this with regard to the statement made by the witness Sweeney, that the action taken by the local authority was not in consequence of any action taken by him or his party in the strike in any way whatever.

30438. Is there anything further you wish to say?

No.

30439. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you think that voluntary notification is sufficient?

I do not think so.

30440. You would rather have it made compulsory?

I think it would be better for this reason; I know that out of the number of infectious diseases existing in Leeds, probably we shall only hear of about a third, or from that to one-half.

30441. You do not make inquiries with a view to ascertaining the proportions?

It is a fact that we do not know above half of the diseases in the borough.

30442. I suppose it must often happen that clothes are made up in a house where there is an infectious disease?

That might occur.

30443. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] On what ground do you come to the conclusion that you only know about half the cases of infectious disease?

I know it myself from my own knowledge, and also from what I have heard from medical gentlemen resident in the borough.

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30444. You mean that you hear afterwards of cases that you were not aware of at the time?

I know it for this reason, that after the disease has passed through its course they send to us to disinfect the house, and we say "How many cases have you had here?" and they say two, or six, as the case may be. Probably some we never hear of at all, and there are others where they have disinfected the houses and clothing themselves.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ROBERT BURNETT is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

30445. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?

I am a tailor by trade, and President of the Amalgamated Society of the Leeds Branch.

30446. Is Mr. Marsden the secretary of the Society?

Mr. Marsden is the secretary.

30447. Did you hear what a former witness said about Mr. Marsden having some statistics or information?

Yes, I am aware that such is the case. He has been acting in conjunction with myself, and we have been collecting information for some considerable time on this point; and last year, in conjunction with Mr. Smith, of the "Lancet," I went around the town on two days for the purpose of getting up a special report as to the sanitary condition of the workshops of the sweaters, and also as to the conditions under which they worked.

30448. The allusion which was made to Mr. Marsden was in connection with municipal contracts?

Yes. I have a list of that now. The police clothes, for one thing, are contracted for, and then they are sub-let. The firm who made them in this town was Pearse and Company, of Covent Garden. Now in the municipalities of Bradford, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, they pay considerably more for them; and, in fact, in many of the municipal contracts the clothing is made in the town; but in the case of Leeds it was made in London here, and at about, I should say, at the very least 30 per. cent. less than any other towns paid for it.

30449. Do you mean that the contract was taken by a London firm, or do I understand you that it was taken by a Leeds firm and sub-let?

It was taken by a Leeds firm, I believe, and sub-let.

30450. You are not sure on that point?

I am not sure on the point of who were the original contractors; but the parties who made them were the firm I mentioned; Pearse and Company, of Covent Garden.

30451. Did that firm make them themselves, or did they sub let them; do not answer the question if you do not know about it?

I will not say that they sub-let them; but we paid for the information that we got from the funds of the society; at some considerable expense and trouble, we got to know that they paid at the rate of a shilling for trousers, and something like 3 s. 6 d. for the tunics; from that to 4 s.

30452. I do not quite understand what you complain of in that respect; do you complain merely that the price was insufficient, or do you complain that there was unnecessary sub-letting in the contract?

We so far complain of being brought in contact with the sweating system that we consider that corporations, where the workmen are direct ratepayers, ought to have their contracts made up in the towns in which the contract is given; that is our view of the matter; and also that it should be done directly between the firm and the workmen, without the intervention of middlemen.

30453. But

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30453. But in this case you say you are not sure whether middlemen were employed?

Of course there was a middleman, certainly there was a middleman. Even allowing it to have been the case that it was a Leeds firm in the first instance, it was another contractor who got them, and then, of course, they were sub-let in that case to Pearse and Company; but whether it was a Leeds firm who got them in the first instance, or whether it was a London firm, I am not exactly sure of; I have not notes with me to refer to on that point, but they were sub-let, at all events, to Pearse and Company.

30454. Are you a practical tailor yourself?

Yes.

30455. Working at your trade?

Working at my trade.

30456. How long have you worked at Leeds?

Close on three years; it will be three years ago in the month of August since I came to Leeds.

30457. Is all your knowledge of the trade of Leeds confined to those three years?

Yes, my knowledge of the work in Leeds, and of course it has never obtained any prominence till now.

30458. Are the members of your society confined to the bespoke trade?

Yes.

30459. They have nothing to do with the ready-made?

In some cases they might. They used to; but of course the way that things are done now, the middlemen and that, have put them out of it mostly, because it is mostly unskilled labour that is employed for that now.

30460. Your society is mostly composed of skilled labour?

They are all skilled labour, men who have served their regular apprenticeship to the trade.

30461. And you say that they are confined now entirely, or almost entirely, to the bespoke trade, whereas formerly they were employed, to a certain extent, in the ready-made trade also?

Yes.

30462. But that they have been put out of that by this middleman sweating system?

Yes.

30463. Are any Jews members of your society?

Not at present; there are not any on the books at present.

30464. Were there ever?

Yes, there have been; but they were confined to the bespoke trade. There are Jews in the bespoke trade as well as in the ready-made.

30465. What have you say as to the sanitary condition of the workshops?

The sanitary condition, as far as I saw it, was fearfully bad, and until very recently (and the thing exists still, unless changes have taken place), there was one house in a street, called Gower-street, and the man who lived in the house there was a tailor, and at the time that I visited the house there was a considerable amount of work laid there cut out ready for making-up, and the sanitary conditions were fearful.

30466. In what way?

On the outside of the house there was an urinal, and, of course, the closets and ash-pit. The drainage was very imperfect; in fact, so much so that all the fluid matter from this ash-pit, cesspool, and closets, percolated right below the paving-stones coming out in front of the door. When you put your foot

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on the pavement, it would tilt right up and squirt right across on the paving-stones, and the stench was fearful. It was right opposite the Board school in Gower-street, and the street at that point is only narrow. The street altogether is very narrow. I should say we took a rough measurement of it, and I think it was something about 40 feet.

30467. Is the workshop on the ground-floor?

They were working in the kitchen at the time that I was there. Of course, it was on the ground-floor. There seemed to be, as in most of the houses there, a cellar below; but it did not seem to be used for that purpose at all. It was merely the kitchen part of the house that was used for working in; and in several other houses which I went to at that time the sanitary conditions were bad; and there were clothes in course of being made there at the time of the visit.

30468. How did you get into these houses?

With a bit of difficulty, at times. One had to use a bit of tact; one way or other we got in. Several of the Jew employers have tackled me, saying that I got into their premises under false pretences. I have got very well abused about it on several occasions since. And a report appeared in the papers afterwards, which mentioned no names, but the places where the shops were situated; and several of the Jew employers have complained about it. But the whole thing was correct. There was nothing but the truth stated as regards the sanitary condition of them.

30469. Did you make a report about this to your society?

Yes.

30470. Have you got that report with you?

Yes.

30471. As to the ventilation and sufficiency of the air space, and so on, what have you to say?

In many of them the air space is good; the air space is above what the Act allows; but there were other causes that went to nullify that to a great extent. In one place that we went into we found the closets were ventilated entirely into the workroom; there was no other means of ventilation but right into the workroom where they were all at work, and these closets were very far from being in a perfect state of sanitation; it was right down some sort of a shaft, and the air blew up strongly; in fact so strongly that if you struck a match, and put it over it, it blew it quite out; and, on the day of our visit, there was no extra wind, or anything of that sort, it was merely the draught up it, and, of course, that carries all the gases up. The smell was fearful; and, at the time of our visit, I should say, in one building at any rate, there were from 3,000 to 4,000 coats and other garments in course of construction.

30472. That would be a large place, I suppose?

Yes; there were at that time, I believe, some five or six of these Jew middlemen in the same building.

30472*. How many hands would be employed in that building?

At the least computation there would be 600.

30473. As a rule, did you find sufficient privy accommodation?

No, very insufficient.

30474. Any separate accommodation for the males and females?

No, all alike. And there was no privacy. Even in cases where there were different closets, they had all to enter out of one common room; there were two closets, but there was no screening, and they just had to go right from the workroom; they were looking right into the workroom.

30475. You have not been long enough at Leeds to form any opinion as to whether the condition is getting better or getting worse, perhaps?

Until within the last month or two I have not taken a turn round, but I did make it a point to visit every week all round the Leylands, and that district where

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where Jews mostly inhabit, and I found that, so far as I could see, the sanitary conditions were not much improved. There was one place that I saw that had an improvement ; that is in one of the streets they call Lady-lane, at the top of it, and Workhouse-yard.

30476. It is coats that are made principally, or altogether, by these Jewish sweaters, is it not ?

No ; many of them make vests and also trousers.

30477. A former witness spoke of the vests being generally made by Christian sweaters ?

Yes, they are ; I know of three or four Christian middlemen who do it. In one instance I know a man was a year or two a baker, carrying on a baking business ; he has entered into it largely now ; but still the Jews go in for it, but not so much as they do for the coats.

30478. As a rule, do the middlemen, whether Jew or Christian, know the trade themselves ; do they work at it themselves ?

No, the Jews do not. And, talking of Christian middlemen, there are very few of them in the trade now ; they cannot make it pay, they have not the same system of doing things ; and it is a way of working which is a gross injustice to the legitimate tradesman altogether, because a man who has served from five to seven years of apprenticeship has, in several cases, got to compete with a man who has scarcely served as many weeks ; and through that system of course there is division and sub-division of labour. But it is all brought about by the middlemen and the style of working.

30479. Am I to take it from you that as a general rule the middleman is not a practical tailor ?

Yes.

30480. And that he frequently does not understand the trade at all ?

He does not understand the trade at all. There are slipper makers, ploughmen, or people that were agriculturists at all events, in Russia and Germany, and other places engaged in it ; they have come across to England, and landed in Leeds probably, or London ; but a good few of them who have come to Leeds have managed in one way or another to have a few pounds in their pockets when they came there. Then they have got introduced to some of these large firms, and by a system of giving bribes or gifts of money to various employes of those firms, they get a large proportion of the trade.

30481. How do you account for their being so successful ?

For one thing, by the amount of grinding that they put on their workpeople. The Jew middleman makes rapidly rich, while his worker makes rapidly poor ; they take it out of the blood and sinews of their workmen.

30482. You spoke just now of the sub-division of labour ?

Yes ; there are men there who to-day are in the trade, and one man (to talk technically of the business) will make collars, another will make sleeves, another makes linings, another makes the body, and so on ; they can only do one particular part ; it is quite different from skilled labour altogether.

30483. But do you consider that objectionable in any way ?

Yes, I do.

30484. Why ?

For the reason that it does away with a man who has to serve an apprenticeship.

30485. But if the coat can be made cheaper by sub-dividing the labour than it can otherwise, have you any objection to that ?

The coat cannot be made in that way ; it can be put together, but not made.

30486. You mean it is not so good ?

I am very well aware of that. The coat is not made at all, and any one who

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takes hold of them and shakes them, can see that. Now, if I may be allowed, I will say what I have seen in regard to making a coat. I have seen them get a big hot iron and a dish, and some sort of paste mixed up, and a brush, apply it, and put the canvas on; that is an internal lining that goes between the inside and outside, and that is put on just by a mere application of this paste and the warm iron; then a facing, or this portion of it, is put on, and run round by a machine; a liberal supply of paste put in again, another touch of an iron, and then the garment is ready for collar and sleeves, and the collar and sleeves are already made, all ready to go into it. Then it falls into the hands of the feller and button-holer. In regard to the felling, I may say that I knew a girl myself who used to take home work, and for what is known in the trade as Chesterfields; that is top coats with bound edges, for felling all the binding round the inside and round the flaps on it, and felling round the top of the sleeve here (*pointing*), all that she would get 5 *d.* for.

30487. I will ask you presently about the wages; I want to get from your first of all, about the sub-division. I gathered from you that the sub-division of labour enables the coat to be made cheaper, but that it is not made so well?

No, it is not made so well.

30488. Bnt, I presume, it satisfies the public?

Well, it may in some cases; but so long as anyone is satisfied with it of course it may do.

30489. Now, as to wages: you were telling us about what this feller could earn; can you speak generally as to the wages paid?

Well, part of it, that is to say, that part of that has come directly under my own knowledge; that fellers for felling round Chesterfields, doing all the felling work about them, got 5 *d.*, and had to find their own thread out of it; and all that sort of thing.

30490. The general system is to pay by time, is it not?

No, not them; they are paid by piece.

30491. The fellers are?

So far as I know. This girl was paid by the piece, and several of them that I have come across have all been paid by piece.

30492. Have you anything more to say about the wages?

Then, for vests, for finishing, they get at the rate of a penny a vest; and for trousers they get from 2 *d.* up to 3 *d.*; and with regard to coats, there was a Jew in the Leylands who showed me his book, and he was getting prices varying from 11 *d.* to 2 *s.* and 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, that was for making a coat right out. That is about the general run of the wages.

30493. I understand that this middleman was getting this price for making the coat right out?

Yes, this middleman.

30494. Do you know what he paid?

The worker had to accept less than that; but that of course is a fair indication of the prices paid to the middleman.

30495. Do you know anything about the hours worked?

In some cases that I see mostly every night the hours are rather long. I have seen them there when I was going to work about six o'clock in the morning; I have seen them at work then, and I have been going around the workshops again at nine at night, and have found them at work then. I tried to get into one the other night, and I was told that if I did not go downstairs I would get thrown down.

30496. You do not know whether any women were employed there?

I do not think there were any women employed there at that particular time; but nevertheless the Factory Act is constantly evaded by women taking home work; and they have to do so in many cases.

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30497. They are obliged to, you mean?

They are obliged to. Where I work is in the direct thoroughfare where hundreds of them pass every night. I have counted myself women going home with from half-a-dozen to eight coats of a night, and when I have been in time in the morning, and had time to spare, I have stood at the entrance for a bit and watched them going back again in the morning, and I could see them taking that number back finished in the morning. It would have taken them more than they could do themselves, and they would have had to have employed some extraneous labour as well; got some other members of the family to help them. That is a thing that is often done. And it is done outside the family. Of course they say not, but it nevertheless is the case that it is done outside the family; there are others who go in and assist with it; I have seen it myself.

30498. That would be in what you call domestic workshops?

In the domestic workshops.

30499. Have you any idea how many there are in Leeds?

No, I cannot say exactly how many there might be; I know there are a good few. To my knowledge some time ago (I think it was about the month of October or December) I know of something like 29, but I cannot say to what extent they might have grown since, or whether they have got less.

30500. If I understand you, what you say is that the women who are employed by these middlemen sweaters are frequently obliged to take work home?

Yes.

30501. That they take home more than they can do themselves individually?

Yes.

30502. And they employ other members of their family, and sometimes employ outside labour altogether?

Yes.

30503. That you believe to be the fact?

Yes, I am certain of it, because I have seen it. Where I could gain admittance to any place, I have seen it taking place.

30504. This condition of things in the ready-made trade, I suppose, does not affect you individually, or the bespoke trade at all?

No, not so far as that goes; but still it does affect it; the sweater, the middleman, affect it; that is, the sweater proper, he is the man who affects it.

30505. In what way?

Because if ever we try any movement to better our condition they throw the sweater in our face directly; they tell us they can get the work done without our aid.

30506. You mean that if you and those who work in shops wanted to keep up the price of wages, or to get a rise in wages, you would be told that they could get the work done outside by sweaters?

Yes.

30507. In that respect it interferes with you?

Yes.

30508. That is to say you object to the competition of the sweaters?

Yes; I do not consider it a fair competition at all; it is unfair.

30509. Why?

Because for a man who has served a regular apprenticeship to a business to be superseded by a man who never spent a day's time in the acquirement of the knowledge of it seems unfair.

30510. But is any of this bespoke trade made up by the sweaters?

Yes, there is, I believe, in Leeds; in the best shops there is not, but in some of the others, some of the smaller ones, they are, as it were, obliged to do it on

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account of the competition of the sweater. But the greatest bar that we have to any advancement of the trade in that way is the domestic workshops.

30511. How does that interfere with you?

Because they are beyond the pale of the factory inspector to visit, and they employ members of their own family and others in them, and there is no mode of reaching them.

30512. And how do they interfere with you; by working longer hours and at a lower wage?

Yes; they work longer hours. And I should like to say this: there were statements given by employers and foremen in evidence before this Committee, saying that the tailors were a dissolute drunken class. Now I find that the reverse is the case now. As to a few years ago the statement was practically correct, but it is not so at the present time. I find men are very willing to work on a Monday if they can get the chance.

30513. Do you think that these domestic workshops ought to be placed under the same regulations as factories and workshops?

Yes; and more so. My mode of dealing with them would be to have them registered. I should have them registered compulsorily, and each employer who employs any one who works at home, should be required to keep a register of it in his own shop, so that anyone could see it at anytime; and I should have it visited pretty often by the factory inspector, and the sanitary inspector as well.

30514. You think that any place where work is carried on should be compulsorily registered?

Yes.

30515. And that the factory inspector should have the power to enter it at any time?

Yes.

30516. Do you think that would be sufficient?

I should have the factory inspector's and the sanitary inspector's powers assimilated; so that if the factory inspector made an order, that order would be compulsory, and would have to be carried out; because as the law exists at present, the factory inspector may say that such and such a thing should be done, but he has no power to compel it without the aid of the sanitary inspector. That is from the sanitary point of view.

30517. You said just now that the existence of the sweaters affected you; and that it was always thrown in your face that they might be employed?

Yes.

30518. Do you mean to say that that has had any effect upon the wages that the members of your society earn?

Yes.

30519. Have they lowered the rate of wage?

Yes, it has been lowered in recent years pretty considerably in many towns.

30520. Is there a regular log in Leeds?

Yes, there is a log in Leeds. In some instances there it has been lowered. There are two shops where the prices have been lowered recently on account of that; they told them that they could get all the work made outside.

30521. You mean that the log prices are not paid?

The log prices are not paid.

30522. You do not go so far as to think that all the work ought to be carried on in factories or workshops?

Yes, if it could be conveniently done, in workshops; but if not, if there were not accommodation or anything of that sort, if the dwelling-houses that are used for that purpose, were registered and brought under inspection, that would do.

30523. Would

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30523. Would you interfere in any way with the liberty of men to work as long hours as they liked?

Yes; but of course I do not see how it could be done; I think it would be going just a step too far to bring law to bear upon it; but at the same time my idea would be that 54 hours a week is quite long enough.

30524. Do you know at all why it is that this ready-made clothing has lately developed so largely in Leeds?

Yes, there are two or three things that have brought it about, I daresay; the case of getting premises for one thing; and another thing is, that the mills are so convenient to it that there is no carriage to pay on the material; and labour is abundant, in fact, super-abundant.

30525. Do you mean unskilled or skilled labour?

Unskilled, I should say.

30526. How does it come to be so abundant in Leeds?

I do not know; it seems of late years to have been a haven of refuge for the Jews who have been expatriated from Russia and other places.

30527. You mean that the labour is super-abundant on account of foreign immigration?

Yes, foreign immigration, and in many cases pauper immigration.

30528. Is that larger than it used to be?

Yes, considerably.

30529. Do you think that the development of the trade has encouraged the immigration, or that the immigration has encouraged the development of the ready-made trade?

I believe myself that at Leeds the immigration has helped to develop the trade.

30530. Do you consider that this foreign immigration has turned out the native population from the trade at all?

Yes; because a few years ago, long enough after I started in the trade, and went to work in it, in our slack season we could always find trade mostly at the ready-made houses, at a fairish figure; but now we cannot, there is no man that can; and that of itself, I believe, in one sense, has tended to sobriety amongst tailors, and to there being more care and thrift practised by them than there used to be, because, of course, they know that the slack season now comes on pretty severely, and they make some provision for it. At all events, I find that is the general rule in men who belong to the society; they all try to make some provision.

30531. Is your branch a large one in Leeds?

The membership is close on 300.

30532. Do you know how many men you have got in the bespoke trade?

No. I believe at present in our branch the workshops stand at something like 235 or 240. And then there is what is called No. 2 Branch; that is out-workers, men who at home; they number over 100.

30533. You do not know, perhaps, what the total number of tailors engaged in the bespoke trade in Leeds is; you say 300 members; 300 out of how many?

There will be between 400 and 500; I should say, 450; that is about the nearest number I can give. Some statistics were gathered up a little over 12 months ago, and it was reckoned 450, as near as we could arrive at it.

30534. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You think that the factory and sanitary inspectors should have equal powers. You would put the sanitary arrangements of the workshops, I suppose, under the factory inspector?

Yes, I should have them over workshops and factories. In the case of any shop that is under the factory inspector's care, when he came to visit it, if he found anything that was defective about the ventilation or otherwise, then he could leave an order for it to be done, and if it was not complied with, he could

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bring them up under the Public Health Act, the same as the sanitary inspector has to do at the present time.

30535. Lord *Rothschild*.] What is the entire population of Leeds?
I forget; it is over 300,000.

30536. And how many Jews are there in Leeds altogether.
I should not like to commit myself by saying.

30537. Are there 10,000?
No; I do not think there are quite 10,000.

30538. Are there 5000?
Yes; I believe it is 6,000; 6,000 and some odd number, from what I have been able to learn.

30539. Lord *Monkswell*.] As to municipal contracts which you were talking about, do you know the terms of the original contracts?

No; I do not know the terms. On anything of that sort the municipalities, when they have been approached in that way, have always been very reticent. I have been engaged in two or three other towns in making inquiries into the nature of the contracts, and they have invariably turned it off; and they give us no direct answer.

30540. You do not know, I suppose, whether the contract specifies the price that is to be given to the worker?

No; a contract would not do so. There are no contracts that specify that.

30541. Then how do you know that the workmen would have been better off if the contract had not been sub-let?

There was a double profit to be taken out of it.

30542. The original contractor would have made a greater profit if he could?

That is probable.

30543. So that, if he could have got the workmen to have worked for as little as the sweater, he would have done so?

He might; but the chances are that he could not.

30544. You think the sweaters are able to get men to work for less than the original contractor?

Yes; because of the system they have of doing it; they employ unskilled labour.

30545. Do not you think that the original contractor might have employed the same kind of unskilled labour?

The possibility is he might.

30546. We have had it in evidence that the workmen who are too industrious are not popular, and are interfered with by the others, if they are working together in a shop. Is that your experience?

That is not the case. That is one of the things I have seen several times brought up in connection with this inquiry, and there have been statements made that an industrious workman would go home rather than subject himself to the tyranny in the workshop. I find the thing quite different, and I have had about 30 years' experience all over the trade from London to the provinces. I have found that if a man was industrious and willing to work, and behaved himself decently, he was very well respected in the workshop, and that there was nobody that interfered with him.

30547. Then you would not think that the best workmen prefer to work at home, in order not to be interfered with?

No.

30548. Is it the case, in your opinion, that the best workmen do prefer to work at home?

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Mr. BURNETT.

[*Continued.*]

No, that is not so. The reason that I should assign for men working at home is this : They are men who have families getting up a bit, and they take the work home, so as to get them into it, and to do a double quantity. In nine cases out of ten that is the reason ; and they work all hours nearly.

30549. Then you do not think that there is much to choose in point of respectability between the workmen that work in shops, and the workmen that work in their own homes ?

No, I consider myself that the man who works in the workshop is the more respectable of the two. Many respectable men work at home ; but in every case the man who works in the workshop is at least as respectable as the man who works at home.

30550. *Chairman.*] Is there anything further you wish to say ?

I mentioned before about the assimilation of the duties of the factory and sanitary inspectors ; and having more powers to visit domestic workshops ; and compulsory registration of the workshops. I think that is all.

30551. You spoke a good deal about foreign immigration, and the effect it has had upon you ?

Yes.

30552. Do you think that that ought to be checked ?

Yes ; that is another thing that ought, in my opinion, to be put a stop to.

30553. Do you mean to say you think it ought to be stopped altogether ?

Yes ; unless they have some visible means of earning a livelihood when they come here ; because the same thing is carried out in other countries, and I do not see that it should be permitted here ; a man coming in here with no trade nor anything of that sort, but dependent just on charity, mostly, for some considerable time, at all events.

30554. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Do you think that a large number of these Jews who come into Leeds would be prevented from going to any other country ?

Yes.

30555. Do you think they would be prevented from going to America ?

Yes, they would. They are men who come here and have no knowledge of the trade whatever, and then, of course, they are kept ; they apply to the Jewish Board of Guardians and others who keep them for some time until they pick up a smattering of the trade, and then, of course, they send them forth. In fact, it is slavery ; it is not fair work at all ; and then they compete in a disastrous way with the regular tradesmen.

30556. *Chairman.*] You have of course, worked in other towns besides Leeds ?

Yes.

30557. What towns have you worked in ?

I have worked in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, and Stockton-on-Tees, and I have worked here in London, some years ago.

30558. In the east or the west of London ?

In the West-end.

30559. Well, do you find that what is called sweating is worse in Leeds than in other places, or worse in other places than in Leeds ?

I believe there is more of the sweating in Leeds ; but comparing Leeds to London and other large towns, the reason why Leeds does not show so conspicuous in that point is the accommodation. There is more accommodation, and better workshops, and everything ; not the same things as there are in the East-end of London, where a lot of it is domestic workshops and that sort of thing. But at the same time the hardship and slavery do exist in Leeds to a great extent ; to a greater extent than anybody would think of unless they actually saw it.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

30th May 1889.

MR. DAVIS JOSEPH, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

30560. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?
Tailoring.

30561. In Leeds?
In Leeds.

30562. How long have you been in Leeds?
About 20 years.

30563. Are you a practical tailor yourself?
Yes, in the making of coats by machines.

30564. Do you know all the branches of the trade?
Yes, in coats.

30565. Do you work yourself now at the trade?
I should think I have plenty of work when I have about 80 hands in the shop to look after.

30566. You employ about 80 hands?
Yes.

30567. And you superintend all that yourself?
Yes.

30568. And therefore you do not do any of the practical work yourself now?
No.

30569. What did you do formerly?
My father, my brothers, were all in the same trade ; I have been brought up in the trade, but did not follow it at home.

30570. As a journeyman tailor?
Yes, I have been working in London here for about five years in the tailoring. I could mention the names.

30571. That is quite sufficient. I only wanted to know the nature of your experience?

And I have worked in Leeds as a journeyman for about three years, and then I started working for Messrs. J. Barran & Sons, and I have been working for them about 16 years.

30572. Is all your work carried on in your own premises?
Yes.

30573. Do you employ Jews and Christians both?
Jews and Christians.

30574. Do you find any inconvenience arise from that?
No, my hands are all quite satisfied.

30575. I mean no inconvenience on account of the work on Saturdays and Sundays?

We do not work Sunday with the females. In my own mind I thought it was not right to work Sundays, so I chose Saturday. The Christian girls work on Saturday, and there are no females working on Sunday.

30576. What would be the proportion of Jews and Christians, do you know?
There are about half English working for me.

30577. Women, girls?
Yes.

30578. Then

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

30578. Then it would be correct to say that about half your hands work on Saturday and about half your hands work on Sunday?

There is no female working at all on Sunday.

30579. No Jewish females?

No, they are satisfied with five days, and they are working as much as they want.

30580. You have no work at all on Sundays?

Not with females.

30581. But the men are working on Sundays?

The men are.

30582. How many men do you employ?

I could not tell you exactly.

30583. What is your trade, the ready-made trade?

The ready-made trade.

30584. Do you make all for one firm?

That is all.

30585. Are you bound to work only for that one firm, or can you take work where you like?

I am not bound at all; there is no compulsion at all; only I am satisfied with the firm, and the firm is satisfied with me; I am doing my duty to them, and they are doing their duty to me.

30586. You get all the work you want from them?

Yes.

30587. What is your busy time of the year?

There is no slack time with me at all; we have been working five days a week, and perhaps above, throughout the year during the last 12 months.

30588. What are your hours?

From eight to eight.

30589. Do you generally work as much overtime as you are allowed under the Act in the year?

We work no overtime with females.

30590. Do you work much overtime with the men?

Yes.

30591. A good deal?

The fact is there is only one portion of the men who are working overtime, and these are pressers mostly, and the reason why is this: of course if I could do without overtime altogether, if it were in my power, I would be satisfied without any overtime at all, because there is a great loss to me when they are working overtime; but there is a certain class of men, and they ask me to give them the permission to work overtime so as to make more money, instead of setting another man on.

30592. The hands you employ would sooner work overtime than that you should employ somebody else and not work overtime?

Yes; because I could set more hands on and not work overtime, but they have asked me, and begged me many a time not to do so.

30593. These pressers; are they working overtime all the year round?

When we are busy?

30594. You say you are busy all the year round?

Pretty near.

30595. What would be their hours during the busy time?

Eight to eight are the regular hours, but they work overtime; sometimes an hour a day, sometimes two, and sometimes three, what they think proper; they were doing it according to their own liking.

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

30596. What days of the week do you get your work out from the firm?
They give the work out every day in the week.

30597. And take it back every day?
Pretty near; not exactly every day, but when it is ready.

30598. Do you find any work out to out-workers?
No. We used to do in former times, because the hands wanted to make more money and asked us to give it out; we did so in the beginning, but we do not do it now. I do not think it is right, and do not wish to do it.

30599. Why do you think it is wrong?
Because when a hand works the whole day, first of all they cannot do justice to the work, and in the next place they might knock themselves up.

30600. You mean that you used to let your hands take work home?
I used to, because they asked me.

30601. But you do not let them now?
No.

30602. But you do not put any work out to out-workers?
No, there is no work put out of my shop. I am there from morning to evening.

30603. Since when did you leave off allowing your hands to take work home?
I could not exactly tell you.

30604. Last year or this year?
I cannot answer exactly.

30605. Do you make coats only?
Only coats.

30606. Do you pay by the piece or by the time?
There are only the felling hands and button-hole hands that are paid by the piece.

30607. What do you pay them?
I pay 6 *d.* a dozen for button-holes all round, giving my own twist, my own gimp, and what is required for it.

30608. Now as to fellers?
They get as much as 2½ *d.*, 3 *d.*, 3½ *d.*, 4 *d.*, 5 *d.*, and 6 *d.* for a coat felling, for one garment felling.

30609. Twopence halfpenny is the lowest?
This is bound work I am speaking of; for stitched ones the price is less.

30610. What is the lowest you pay in stitched ones?
Three half-pence for one pair of sleeve heads to fell, and 2 *d.* and 2½ *d.*, and as high as 4 *d.*

30611. Then all the others you pay by time?
All the others by time.

30612. How much a day?
It all depends. You see we cannot tell exactly to a shilling or two for a certain amount of time, because at a certain time a man leaves me; he thinks he can get more wages somewhere else; he goes somewhere else, and gets a shilling or two shillings more, and I have to take another one in his place, and I have to give a 1 *s.* or 2 *s.* less, or a 1 *s.* or 2 *s.* more.

30613. Then your wages vary a good deal, do they?
Yes, they do.

30614. In fact, I presume you get them as low as you can, as long as you get your work properly done?

No,

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

No, there is no such a thing; it is only just simply talk for nothing. We pay a good wage; we pay as high as 36 s. for a man on the board. Of course I must remind your Lordships there are a few of them, about ten or a dozen, at my shop who work an hour more than the others because they are considered to have easy work on the board, simply basting cotton, and that is the reason they have an hour more.

30615. I suppose you do not pay more wages than you need?
No, I should think not; why should I!

30616. Will you give the rates of wages you are paying now?
From 30 s. to 36 s. on the board.

30617. Thirty-six shillings a week; that would be the highest?
Thirty-six shillings is the highest on the board.

30618. And what would be the lowest?
Thirty shillings.

30619. Then the other branches?
As high as 36 s. and 38 s. for pressers.

30620. And as low as what?
As low as 33 s.; I cannot tell exactly, as I said before. I may state now 36 s. next week, it might cost me a shilling more or a shilling less; that is where we cannot tell exactly.

30621. Have you no underpressers?
Yes.

30622. What would they be earning?
Twenty-four shillings a week.

30623. Not less than that?
No less.

30624. And in the other branches?
Machiners come next.

30625. What would they be getting?
From 33 s. up to two guineas.

30626. And the number?
This is male machiners; the under is female. From 15 s. to 32 s., female machiners.

30627. All the year round?
All the year round on an average. I cannot tell exactly to a shilling or two.

30628. The lowest you have given us is 15 s. a week.
Yes.

30629. Do you mean to say that the lowest female hand you have would earn 15 s. a week all the year round?

These are weekly wages; but of course, if they lose a day I do not pay them for that.

30630. But they can earn that if they choose?
Certainly.

30631. Have you any learners?
No.

30632. You never had any learners?
Because they are no use to me.

30633. You have never employed them?
No; there are the basting pullers pulling the thread out and going errands and so on; I do not reckon them in the trade.

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

30634. Do you remember the strike that there was last year?
I do.

30635. But what was it all about?

Because they wanted to do the best trade they could; they wanted to keep us bound with them; they wanted to be our masters instead of our being theirs.

30636. Have wages gone up or down since then?
There is no change in my place, as far as I know.

30637. Did you employ any men who were members of the society?

They are there yet; they are the same lot pretty near with one or two changes. They come when they like and go when they like?

30638. But are they members of the society?

I do not know; I do not ask them. If a man suits me I take him.

30639. Would you have any objection to employing society men?

With conditions; it all depends on the conditions. Not on the conditions they wanted last time.

30640. Would you have any objection to employing a man who was a society man, is my question?

Who was a society man before, you mean? There is none now.

30641. Who was one before; would you have any objection to employing a him?

No.

30642. Did you have any objection to employing a society man?

No, I never made such a remark; there has been no such thing in my shop.

30643. Is the foreign element increasing very much in Leeds?

That I cannot answer; I do not interfere. When I am off from my business I go home and think nothing more about it.

30644. You have been in Leeds 20 years?
Yes.

30645. And you do not know whether there are more foreigners now than before?

There are a lot more; but if you want me to tell you exactly, I do not know.

30646. This ready-made trade has sprung up very largely at Leeds, has it not?

It has.

30647. What is the reason of that?

As regards sweating, I do not consider it is sweating.

30648. Never mind that: just answer my question. I asked you whether the ready-made trade has not increased?

It has increased a lot.

30649. It has come to Leeds, as has been mentioned before the Committee, from various other towns; the ready-made trade has a tendency to leave other towns and come to Leeds?

Yes.

30650. What is the reason of that?

I can only pass an opinion on that; I cannot tell exactly the reason. My opinion is that it is a convenient place for both. The system must be a lot better in Leeds than it is in London or in any other town, and both the cloth is near and everything; it is in the centre. That is my opinion.

30651. What do you mean by the system being better?

My

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

My opinion is that the people in the trade know how to go about it; they can turn out a garment pretty near as good as in the bespoke trade.

30652. Lord *Rothschild*.] Would you not say that the tailoring trade has increased in Leeds on account of the proximity to the great cloth manufacture?

I should say, according to my opinion, it is on account of the cloth manufacture, and on account of the system of making of garments.

30653. Is the system of making the garments different from that of London?

It must be, because the London people come to Leeds to buy them, a great many; there must be something in it.

30654. You have sub-division of labour, I suppose, in your shop; the same sub-division of labour as they have in the London shops?

No, it is a different system. I have worked in London as a journeyman, and I have worked in Leeds; it is a different system altogether.

30655. Will you explain the difference?

I will as far as I know. In London they go to such a place as [], and get out perhaps 20 or 30 separate jobs themselves, they have to go home, and they have to make it themselves, and they have to bring it in the next morning, or else there is no other work for them. That was the case in my time when I was in London; I do not suppose it is better now; I expect it will be a little worse perhaps. Those people had to go home and sit down and work till it was done, because they were forced to do it, to get the trade into the warehouse to get other jobs. When you come to hurry in that manner the garment cannot be so very up to mark.

30656. Now at Leeds?

Then at Leeds they keep the great big system I may say, that of cutting machines. Their style of cutting the garments and making these big bundles and big cuttings, and giving a man a chance to go on with his work, he can go on gradually and make the work right accordingly. In Leeds the shops employ a larger number of hands usually, and are better managed; and with larger lots to make, can pay better wages and get more skilled workpeople. If a man gives satisfaction they will help him on so far as they possibly can.

30657. Then if I understand you rightly, you are a branch of Mr. Barran's establishment?

I work for Messrs. Barran.

30658. And you work continually for them?

I started 16 years ago, and I work continually for them now.

30659. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] I understand that your difficulty with the men who belong to the society, was not they belonged to the society, but that the society insisted upon conditions with which you could not agree?

Yes.

30660. Not being able to come to terms you had to get rid of the society men who would not give up the conditions?

They left us themselves; they went away on the strike, and they came back again afterwards; that is all. But we did not send them away.

30661. *Chairman*.] How did you carry on your work while the strike was going on?

We went together, all the employers that are working for Messrs. Barran, went up to one shop, and this was in my own shop, and we made whatever was wanting, without the work hands. And if you wish to know the reason why we did not agree about the strike, they were going to thrust upon us society shops, and society shops mean a great injury both to employers and to hands.

30662. What is a society shop?

What we understand by a society shop is that it means this; according to their rules, that they passed in their own society, every strange man that comes from another town has to pay a guinea entrance fee, and if he cannot pay a

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Mr. JOSEPH.

[Continued.]

guinea, of course they cannot give him any work ; but if he pays a guinea, they will take him up. For instance, at my shop, they say, " There is a man here who belongs to the society ; you must give him work." I say " I have no room for him ; I am full up." I do not change every day : I have hands that have been working for me 15 years. They will say " Well, you have girls here ; they are not in the society ; send one of the girls away and set the man on." That was their demand, and we thought it a very strong thing. They were English girls, brought up in England, and we thought it a very strong thing their coming and depriving them of the work, and putting on a man they thought proper. I do not think it is very fair altogether for the men to be coming mastering the employers.

30663. That you think was the object of the strike ?

It was the objection that we had altogether to their points. But, as regards the strike, I will assure you the majority of them never wanted such a thing, and I will state with confidence that there are not two men in my shop that are willing to join strikes again, and they would not have gone then if they had not been forced and threatened.

30664. Lord *Thring*.] You do not sell any goods at all, do you ?
No.

30665. Mr. Barran does not manufacture any goods, does he ?
Yes, they do.

30666. Do not you manufacture for him ?
Yes, I manufacture for him.

30667. Therefore he does not manufacture ?
They do. I only make some classes of goods for them ; other classes they make themselves in their own factory where they have some hundreds of machines and employ over a thousand people.

30668. Then he manufactures, and also buys another class of goods from you ?
He does not buy that.

30669. You supply him with another class of goods ?
Yes.

30670. *Chairman*.] Is there anything further you would like to say ?
No, I do not think so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES WILLIAM DENTON, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

30671. *Chairman*.] You are the firm of J. W. Denton and Company, are you not ?
Yes.

30672. What is your business ?
Wholesale clothier.

30673. At Leeds ?
Yes.

30674. And how long have you been established in Leeds ?
I have been in business with my partner 15 or 16 years ; but I had 10 years in the largest wholesale house in the town previous to that.

30675. Your experience is entirely in Leeds ?
In Leeds entirely.

30676. Do you manufacture for the home consumption, or for export ?

At

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Mr. DENTON.

[Continued.]

At present only for the home consumption ; but I have manufactured for the export trade as well.

30677. Have you a factory ?

Yes.

30678. Do you manufacture all on your own premises ?

Except a certain portion which we give to the Jews.

30679. What do you manufacture on your own premises ?

Juvenile clothing ; all youth's ; and all the men's trousers and vests ; and some portions of the coats.

30680. What is it that you put out ; only a certain portion of the coats ?

The better class of the coats.

30681. Why do you not manufacture it yourselves ?

Probably you will allow me to give an explanation.

30682. Certainly ?

When I went into the trade at first, the only thing we did in the factories or workshops, or machine-rooms, as we called them, was to machine the juvenile clothing, and the youth's and men's trousers. The whole of the youth's coats and youth's waistcoats, and men's coats, and men's waistcoats were made outside. The whole of the finishing (I am speaking now of from 15 to 20 years ago) of the juvenile clothing was sent out to be finished, so that we only did the machining in our factories. Since then we have found it more convenient to extend our workshops or factories, and put power down, driving them by power. I may say that when we drove them by treadle under the old machines, we did about 500 stitches per minute ; now we are driving them from 1,300 to 1,400 stitches per minute by power. Then the finishing all went out ; it was done in domestic houses, the whole of the finishing in those days was done in domestic houses ; but the inconvenience of having it extended over the whole town was so great, and the trouble in keeping a proper supervision over it, that the most, if not the whole of the larger concerns in the town are doing the finishing in their own workshops ; we are finding them room ; they get irons, improved gas-irons, where they can use great pressure, and all necessary sanitary arrangements, closets and cooking-stoves, and a cook to cook their food.

30683. You found it more convenient for many reasons to do the greater part of your work in your own premises ?

In our own premises.

30684. And that, I understand you, is the custom generally of the trade now ?

It is the custom in all the large places ; there is very little finishing that goes out of our premises now.

30685. Will you just explain to me why it is not more convenient to do the whole of it on the premises ?

We are quietly drifting into that, and sooner or later, I believe, the whole of the clothing will be manufactured under our own roof.

30686. Do the people who formerly worked for you as out-workers in their own homes, finishing, and so on, now work on your premises ?

They work on our premises. I have any quantity of hands that have been with me from 15 to 20 years who formerly finished at home.

30687. Do they prefer working on your premises ?

Yes, they prefer it.

30688. And in a short time you think that you will be doing the whole of your manufacturing on your own premises ?

Yes.

30689. In the meantime you put out your coats ?

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Mr. DENTON.

[Continued.]

Some portion of them ; some portion we are doing, but we have not our staff of hands sufficiently well trained yet to do the portion we put out.

30690. And these you give to the middlemen ?

Such men as Mr. Joseph and others. The whole of the waistcoats that we make we make entirely in our own place now ; we put none out.

30691. And do you find you can make them cheaper than you could make them, owing to the use of power and machinery and so on ; can you manufacture cheaper than you could formerly when you put so much work out ?

I think we can.

30692. You pay your hands by time, I suppose ?
Piece.

30693. Altogether ?

All, except the cutters ; the cutters we pay by time, and we have one or two machinists that we pay by time ; the cleverest hands we pay by time.

30694. How do you settle the rate of wages, the prices ?

Two or three that we have we pay by time ; they are superior hands, and we have them so that we can, when there is any new design, put the best girls on to it ; and by new designing a single garment they cannot earn the money at piece-work.

30695. What I asked you was how you settled the rate of wages :
By piece, do you mean ?

30696. Yes ?

It has come down ; it seems to be the development of the trade.

30697. I mean, is there a regular log or statement of prices ?

For certain classes of work. For instance, the lowest juvenile suits which we have will have to go through 10 people's hands. It is simply a division of labour, and we pay so much per dozen.

30698. I do not care about the details ; I want to know by what means you arrive at the price you pay ?

It is only by the experience we have gained by the many years we have been in the trade ; it is a mutual arrangement between our workpeople and ourselves.

30699. Is there no statement of prices fixed between the master and the men ?

Oh yes, we have that ; it is a mutual arrangement.

30700. I suppose you would judge of what price should be paid a good deal by the price you could get it done outside ?

We have no standard for outside work, as far as juvenile clothing is concerned, because the whole of it is done in our own factories.

30701. We will take the coats. If you wished to make them inside, you would judge of the price to pay, I presume, by what you could get them made for outside ?

Yes.

30702. Lord *Rothschild*.] And what would you realise ?

Yes, and what we would realise. I hold in my hand a paper of average wages of every one in my employ last week. I may say that it was the first week that we had worked the extra overtime, that is, from six to eight. We have 40 days per year when we can work an extra two hours. I may say that I strongly object to overtime if we possibly can avoid it. Our time-table in our work-rooms is timed for six in the morning until six at night, but for certainly eight months in the year we only work from eight to six, and probably the other four months we may work from six to six ; but just for the last week or two, being very busy, we have just applied and got power to work the extra two hours. But we strongly object to it ; we do not like it if we can avoid it.

30703. What

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Mr. DENTON.

[Continued.]

30703. What is the wage?

Last week the average wage of the cutters, including the boys on the place as well, was 1 l. 9 s. 5 d.; the machinist females, 1 l. 1 s. 8 d.; and with regard to the finisher it is, 1 l. 4 s. 2 d. here, but that is rather an exaggerated statement; I find that about five or six of the women have girls with them; so I should put it down at 1 l. 1 s.

30704. Have the machinists to pay the girls?

No; out of this 1 l. 4 s. 2 d., five of them would have to pay the girls something, about 5 s. per week.

30705. Do any of the others have to pay anybody?

No, nothing whatever; that is what they are paid nett, after paying for everything; paying for sewings, and so on; and I think they pay 1 d. a week to the cook; something of that sort.

30706. They have that money to take home after all deductions?

Yes.

30707. That is for how many hours?

Twelve hours for five days, and five hours on the Saturday; we never work extra time on the Saturday; only from eight to one.

30708. You work 10 extra hours in the week?

No, not quite so much as that; seven and a-half hours.

30709. You work two hours a day extra, do you not?

No, we have to allow them an extra half-hour for another meal when they work from six to eight at night, so that it is only seven and a-half hours per week more.

30710. What is the paper which you have got before you?

I heard a statement made about the earnings of the pressers, so I have telegraphed down to my people to give me the prices for this year of our presser, one man that we have there, and this is the reply (*producing a telegram*).

30711. If you want to put this in, you should state it?

"Presser's wages for 21 weeks, 40 s. 4 d. per week, including overtime."

30712. That is one presser?

One presser.

30713. And would he have to pay anybody?

Nothing whatever out of that.

30714. No deductions whatever out of it?

No deductions whatever. I may say that we find him with the latest machinery, pressing-irons, and all that; but this man has the privilege, I may say, of working if he likes from six to six; I should say that for four months out of the five he may have worked from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night.

30715. How do you manage your factory; into how many departments is it divided?

We have a foreman pattern-cutter who is responsible for the shapes, who superintends the work and the giving out the work to the workers outside; we have a foreman stock-cutter, he is responsible for his own room; then we have a foreman in the machine-room, who is responsible for all the machinists' wages, and I may say, that generally, the foreman in the machine-room fixes the wages to a considerable extent.

30716. How do you pay the foremen in these various departments; I mean, do you pay them so much per week?

So much per week, whether they are working or not; there is no deduction for short time, and they have annual holidays as well.

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Mr. DENTON.

[Continued.]

30717. They make no profit out of the labour?

Oh, no; if we have had an exceptionally good year, sometimes we give them a small bonus at the end of the year.

30718. You say that the foreman has something to do with the fixing of the rate of wages; is it any advantage to him to fix the rate of wages low?

No, no advantage at all.

30719. He makes nothing out of it himself?

Nothing whatever.

30720. It has been stated before us in evidence, that what has been termed the sweating system in relation to the middlemen, especially the Jewish middlemen, is very largely increasing in Leeds; would you tell us whether the tendency is for the ready-made clothing to be more and more made in the premises of the large houses?

I feel satisfied about it. In the evidence I gave in Leeds to Mr. Oram, I said that it is not altogether an extension in Leeds: it is more of a concentration than formerly; the whole of the finishing that has been done all over the town is being concentrated under our own roof.

30721. There seems to me to be rather a contradiction. Your opinion is that the tendency is for more and more work to be manufactured on the premises of the large houses?

Yes.

30722. And other witnesses have stated that, in their opinion, the number these Jewish middle men is increasing very largely; those two statements would appear contradictory?

They may be; but still I hold to my own opinion, that the longer we live the more of the work will be done under own roof.

30723. Do you think that the foreign element is increasing in Leeds?

No doubt about it; and I believe myself, if we do carry this out, we shall have to employ the foreigner as well in our own factory. I have done so to some extent in former years.

30724. What will become of the domestic workers; the married women with families dependent on them?

We shall draft them in into our own places?

30725. Can they leave their families without inconvenience?

We have now married women, machinists, and finishers as well; I do not know how they manage about leaving their families.

30726. Do you get many orders from London?

I have had a lot of orders from London?

30727. It is a correct statement, is it, that the ready-made trade has a great tendency to concentrate itself in Leeds?

Yes.

30728. Owing to the proximity of the cloth manufacture?

Yes; owing to the proximity of the cloth manufacture, and having no carriage to pay, and to our being central, half-way between London and Glasgow, and owing to our cheap water and cheap gas; and I think I might go further and say cheap dwelling-houses for the working-classes.

30729. And you would, if you could, do away with all overtime?

I would do away with all overtime.

30730. Why do you not?

When a pressure comes on, and you are getting half-a-dozen telegrams for stuff you are sometimes induced to resort to it.

30731. Do you see any way in which that overtime can be done away with; as you think it is desirable that it should be?

I do

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Mr. DENTON.

[Continued.]

I do not; because as long as you allow us to work by the Factory and Workshop Act——

30732. What I mean is, supposing the Factory and Workshop Act did not allow of that overtime, would it affect your trade injuriously?

I do not think it would ultimately.

30733. You think there are sufficient hands to carry on the work without overtime?

Yes.

30734. At present you do not make for export?

No; I might say what probably very few people know, that the first ready-made goods made in Leeds were for export in the year 1852.

30735. Is the export trade in Leeds dying out?

Oh no, it is increasing: it died out altogether; we thought that the London houses did that, and the Bristol and the Glasgow houses.

30736. And now it is reviving?

Now it is coming back. One great firm from Glasgow has come to Leeds; that is one of the great sources.

30737. Is there much foreign competition in the export trade?

I am not aware of it; but I believe there is a little from Hamburg.

30738. With regard to doing away with this overtime, for instance, or doing anything that might tend to increase the cost of production, would it have, in your opinion, any injurious effect upon the trade on account of foreign competition?

I do not think it would, because I think there is a tendency to decrease the hours on the Continent as well as in England.

30739. Do you employ many men to work for you outside, or only one?

Only two men.

30740. Do you know anything about the sanitary condition of the workshops of these people?

I have been to most of them in my experience; I have been about the town. I would say, first, that I would rather have the stuff for juveniles finished in our own workshops than in the domestic kitchens. As far as the hands are concerned, I may say, that unfortunately for them, they have gone to the lowest part of the town for their dwelling-houses, and the unsanitary condition in which they live is more apparent than real; their mode of living and their food are such that if you were to enter one of their dwellings you would think it intolerable, but in reality I do not think it is so.

30741. You mean, that in reality, it is not intolerable to them?

To them it is not; but what with the oil and fish, the fish fried in oil, and the onion and the garlic and the saffron, it is a very strong perfume when you go in.

30742. Disagreeable to others?

Disagreeable to an Englishman; but I believe they are remarkably healthy, and rarely take any fever. And I must bear my testimony to the Jewish workmen round as being remarkably industrious and sober; that when there is work to do they will do it; and there, I think, the English working tailor has to blame himself, to a certain extent, for losing work.

30743. Lord *Thring*.] You have told us that machines driven by power will do from 1,300 to 1,400 stitches per minute. Have you anything more to say about your machinery?

I will give you as another illustration the case of the button-hole machiner working from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night, with an hour and a-half interval off, which is something like 10½ hours a day, and five hours on the Saturday, one girl made 375 dozen button-holes in a week, that is almost one per minute.

30744. Do you mean that the machines make them complete all along?

Yes, except that it has to be finished afterwards at the back.

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Mr. DENTON.

[*Continued.*]

30745. Lord *Rothschild.*] How much did she get paid for that ?

She earned thirty shillings that week ; she gets 1½ *d.* per dozen. I am only giving that to illustrate the speed with which the machine is driven now. There is another machine which will do more. I have got a few independent figures to what Mr. Josephs has given you about the earnings of the Jewish hands and Christian girls.

30746. *Chairman.*] How did you get them ?

I got them from the man that I employ.

30747. From the master ?

Yes ; he is prepared to submit his books to your inspection.

30748. You may give us the figures, if you like ?

The girls work from eight to eight, the same as has been said, and six to two on Saturdays, and the average wages are from 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per day to 6 *s.* 4 *d.* The average wages of his girls is 1 *l.* 7 *s.* per week ; that will be in the busy time. I do not think that will be in the slack time ; and the average men's wages 1 *l.* 15 *d.* ; button-hold hands 25 *s.* per week.

30749. Do you know how many hours he keeps his hands at work ?

From eight to eight, and he tells me that he does not put any learner on under 12 *s.* per week.

30750. Is there anything else you would like to say ?

I should like to take the bribery question up, if you will allow me.

30751. Yes. It was suggested in evidence that these middlemen get work from the large houses by bribing the foremen, and so on ; that is what you refer to.

Yes. During my experience both as a manager and as an employer of labour, that has never been proved to me yet. I have never had any authenticated case where a bribe has been taken by our foremen. The statement has been made often, and I have used my utmost endeavours to find it out, and I have never succeeded. I may illustrate it further by saying that one Jewish middleman waited upon a firm and told them that their foreman was offering a bribe ; he immediately reduced the wages 3 *d.* per garment all round to try and stop it. There was no more said to that firm about bribery. Then with regard to the strike, I wish to say that the strike did not last two months ; it did not last two weeks.

30752. Do you know anything about the causes of the strike or the objects of the strike ; it did not affect you in any way, did it ?

No ; it did not affect the man I employed at all ; he got his work done the same ; the men did not leave him. I should strongly suggest, myself, that it was brought about by agitators more than by the men themselves. Then there has been some remark about the inefficiency of the Government inspection in Leeds. I probably have had as much experience of that matter as any man in Leeds. There is only one firm that knows more about it than I do ; and I have always thought it very efficient ; and I must say that if anything wrong occurs the inspectors are very severe and also very just. I can bear my testimony to Mr. Richards and to Mr. Dawson as well.

Chairman.] Mr. Richards is coming to give evidence. He will be able to bear testimony to himself.

Witness.] I was only going to say that I always found him remarkably keen in finding out any defect, and always willing to listen to reason.

30753. Have you anything further to say ?

I do not know that I have. I have a lot more things which I might say, but I think I have given you quite sufficient.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

30th May 1889.

MR. JOHN WILLIAM AKERS, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows :

30754. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business ?

Foreman of the outside finishers and the Jews for Messrs. Arthur & Co.

30755. What are Messrs. Arthur & Co. ?

Clothiers.

30756. And you are the foreman of that department ?

Of the outside finishers and the Jews.

30757. That is to say, you have to superintend all the work that is put out to be finished by out-workers, or that is put out to the Jewish sweaters, as they have been called ; the middlemen ?

Yes.

30758. Is the bulk of the work put out ?

No ; we get three parts of it, I daresay, done inside.

30759. And about that you have nothing to say, I suppose ?

No ; I have nothing to do with the inside.

30760. What is it that is put out to be finished ?

Juvenile suits.

30761. Are they cut out on the premises ?

Cut out and machined on the premises.

30762. Whom do they go to ; what kind of people ?

Christian people.

30763. People working in their own homes, do you mean ?

Yes, in their own homes.

30764. How are they paid ; so much the piece ?

So much a suit.

30765. They finish a whole juvenile suit ?

Yes.

30766. And how do you get other things, vests and trousers, made ?

Trousers are all made inside, and part of the vests are made outside.

30767. Do you know how many finishers you employ outside ?

About 160.

30768. Women, I suppose ?

Yes, women.

30769. Working in their own homes mostly ?

Yes.

30770. How do they get the work ; do they come for it ?

They come for it.

30771. And carry it away, and bring it back again ?

Yes.

30772. Every day ?

Perhaps they will come in on the Monday, and then again on the Wednesday ; we have some that come in every day.

30773. And then they get so much a dozen ?

So much a dozen.

30774. You do not know whether they do it all themselves, or call in others to help them ?

No ; we give it out to one hand.

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Mr. AKERS.

[*Continued.*

30775. And all you have to do is to give it out, and see that it is brought in again in proper condition ?

Yes.

30776. Can you tell me what you pay for juvenile suits, for finishing ?
It is arranged from 4 s. 6 d. a dozen up to 12 s. a dozen.

30777. And do you find them the material ?

Yes ; all but the sewing.

30778. Then the vests are made in the same way ; the part of them that is made up outside is that made by the same kind of people ?

Yes ; the same kind of people.

30779. Then about the coat ?

The coats, men's, are all made by the Jews ; but some we get made inside ; we have started a department to try to get them all made inside.

30780. Do you think you can get them made cheaper inside than you can by the Jews ?

I do not think it is to get them made cheaper, but we want to get them made in a shop, and made under the Factory Act.

30781. But the places of the Jews are under the Factory Act, are they not ?

Yes ; but we want to get a place of our own ; a large place.

30782. I want to know why ; do you think you can get them made better or cheaper, or what object is there ?

I think it is partly through the strike that the Jews had last year or the year before ; we had a little bother with them then, and could not get the work through ; so we tried to get a place to be a little independent of them.

30783. What prices do you pay for the coats ?

The men's coats are from 1 s. 3 d. up to 3 s. 3 d. a-piece.

30784. One shilling and threepence is the lowest, is it ?

One shilling and threepence is the lowest.

30785. What the Jews pay their hands is no business of yours, I suppose ?

No, I have nothing to do with that.

30786. Do you employ a great number of Jews, or only one or two ?

We have seven Jews.

30787. Do you know anything of their workshops ?

I have been round occasionally ; some of them are very good houses and some of them I have found rather inferior.

30788. How do you settle the prices with them ; is it a matter of bargain each time ?

No. Of course they change. That for the coats we have had ever since the place commenced, I suppose. We take the range of price from one garment to another.

30789. If a man comes to you and takes out a certain quantity of a certain class of goods he knows the price he is to be paid for doing it ?

Yes, he gets a slip with the price he is to be paid on it.

30790. Does that vary much ?

Sometimes he may get a lower quality, and the next time he may get a better quality.

30791. I mean does the price paid vary very much ?

No ; it lasts on for a season.

30792. For a year ?

Yes ; for a year.

30793. Is there not much competition among the Jews to get work ?

There is a great deal of competition.

30794. Does

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Mr. AKERS.

[Continued.]

30794. Does not that reduce the price?

I do not know that it does.

30795. Great competition, but no reduction of price?

We have had reductions since I went to the place, but I think it is the competition in the trade that has caused them, not the competition to get work.

30796. I suppose the competition in the trade is severe?

Yes.

30797. Just now you said "since opening the place;" how long have you had the situation?

I said the prices had been arranged from the time when the place was opened, and it has been arranged from those prices ever since.

30798. How long ago is that?

The prices have been arranged from 12 to 14 years in Leeds.

30799. Do you mean that they have not varied?

Yes, they have varied, but they have been arranged from those prices.

30800. They have gone down?

Yes.

30801. Have they gone down much the last two or three years?

They have not gone down so much this last four or five years.

30802. We have been told that the number of these foreign Jews is very largely increasing; these masters and Jew workers; is that so?

No, I do not find that so; I do not find that there has been any greater increase than there was since I went into the trade five or six years ago.

30803. I mean are there more of them now than there were five or six years ago?

Yes, rather more.

30804. A good many more?

Yes, a good many more than there were five years ago. We have many come seeking trade from the middlemen, from the master Jews.

33805. And you think you could now manufacture the coat as cheaply yourselves?

Yes.

30806. What will become of these middlemen?

We got many of them to work inside the place that we opened.

30807. It has been suggested in evidence that a good many of them are not practical tailors at all, is that so?

I have found a few in that line are not practical tailors, but still many of them are, most of them.

30808. And with regard to the homes of the people that do the finishing, do you know anything about them; have you ever visited them?

Yes, I have visited them occasionally.

30809. And do you think they are in a fair sanitary condition, and so on?

Yes; sometimes of course you find that one is a little inferior to the other.

30810. And have you had any opposition on the part of the Jews who work for you, to your manufacturing the coats in your own premises?

Yes, a great deal of talk about it.

30811. Has it had the effect of reducing the prices?

No, it has not reduced any of them.

30812. But they object, you say?

Yes, they have a great deal of objection to it.

30813. This ready-made trade has largely increased in Leeds, has it not?

Yes.

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Mr. AKERS.

[Continued.]

30814. Is that due, do you think, to the existence of this foreign immigration?

I do not; I think it is partly through Leeds being the centre place of the clothing manufacture, and of the labour as well.

30815. Is there anything more you would like to say?

I would like to speak as to what our friend, Mr. Sweney, has mentioned about the bribery there is from the middleman to the foreman. I cannot say that I have found that so. I have heard a great deal of talk about it by other people who have nothing to do with it.

30816. I suppose you would not know of its existence except in your own place?

Yes, only in my own place.

30817. You would know that they have not bribed you?

I am certain of that.

30818. Have they ever tried to?

No, I do not know that they have ever tried it.

30819. Is there anything else you would like to say?

That is all.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ABRAHAM COHEN, is called in; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows:

30820. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?

I am a jeweller and silversmith at Leeds.

30821. Are you connected with the Jewish Board of Guardians?

I am.

30822. In what capacity?

As treasurer.

30823. How long have you been treasurer?

About seven or eight years, as far as I can remember.

30824. Can you tell the Committee if the Jewish population of Leeds is now increasing largely?

It has been increasing the last few years.

30825. Do you know what it is now?

I could scarcely say that; I should imagine about 5,000.

30826. And have you any idea what it was five years ago, or 50 years ago?

I have lived in Leeds 42 years. When I first came to Leeds there were about 10 or 12 Jewish families; I was in Leeds for about three weeks before I met with one Jew.

30827. When you first arrived, you mean, that was the state of things?

Yes; I was a single young man then, and there was a young man who came over and came to live in the same place where I lived; he was a tailor from home, and he went to seek work at private shops, like Mr. Hyam's or Mr. Barran's, and he had to take work, and I was security for him for a sum of 5 *l.*, and when he got a pair of trousers or coat to make, and when he worked very hard at times, and late at night too, he made about 15 *s.* or 16 *s.* a week; I do not know what became of that young man. There was also another or two who came, and I used to be security for several of them in shops; but none of them could stay, because they did not make enough with all their hard work and long hours.

30828. The system was beginning then?

Their small wages were owing to there being no sewing-machines at that time.

30829. Now

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Mr. COHEN.

[Continued.]

30829. Now how many do you suppose there are in the tailoring trade at Leeds?

With regard to the tailoring trade in Leeds, had it not been for the Jews I do not think there would have been as much trade and work in the town as there is.

30830. Can you tell me how many there are in the trade?

I cannot say. A few hundreds are sure to be employed; with men and boys and women together, there are sure to be.

30831. Do you suppose there are 1,000?

I should say there are.

30832. Perhaps more?

Perhaps more, but I really could not answer exactly.

30833. In the last five years has the immigration of foreign Jews been much larger than usual?

Yes, to a certain extent; but I must say this: I have been here this morning, and heard the statement made that when they come over they are not tailors. I beg to say that a good many come over who have learned the trade before they come, and are tailors.

30834. I want to ask you, first of all, if you know why they have come so much in the last five or ten years?

The country they come from mostly is Russian Poland, *e.g.*, Lithuania; we have very few Germans, and not as many of those people coming from any other country as we have from Russian Poland. I, being treasurer, have brought the report of the last year and the year previous, because I thought you would like to see how the money is spent.

30835. You think most of them come from Russian Poland?

Yes.

30836. And why?

A great many from soldiering.

30837. Owing to their objection to military service, you mean?

Yes; they do not like to be in the army under the Russian Government.

30838. Have you any idea why they come to Leeds?

There are a great many who when they are in Leeds send letters home; they write to their relations and friends, and when they get to be young men of 18 or 19, when the time comes for them to be soldiers, they come over here; previous to that they learn the trade of tailoring.

30839. Do you think that, generally speaking, when they arrive in Leeds, they know some trade or other?

Not all; there are a great many of those who come over that have not had a trade, and do not know a trade; but then there is not a trade for those people to get to.

30840. What becomes of them if they have got no trade?

Some apply to the Jewish Board of Guardians, and we have to pay 10 s. to a machiner to teach them, and to give them 2 s. or 3 s. a week, or enough to live on. Then after the man gets to work he gets 8 s. or 9 s. a week; that is when they are single young men.

30841. That must come rather hard upon the Jewish Board of Guardians, does it not?

We have a few gentlemen, very nice supporters, who support our board of guardians. And, of course, that is not all; the board of guardians has not got so many tailors to support, because these are people who, if there is any work, will work, and work hard, and be careful in their living; and when it comes to the Saturday they turn out very nice and clean; they dress in a way that is respectable and decent. I very often have to go to investigate cases; so I can say that.

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Mr. COHEN.

[Continued.]

30842. There was a report, you say, last year, and the year before, of your board?

Yes; and for all the years during which the board has been in existence.

30843. Perhaps you will let me look at them?

Yes, with pleasure (*handing them in*).

30844. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do they generally repay you these loans?

We do not grant loans.

30845. I am wrong, then, in calling them loans; I will say these premiums that you pay for them?

No; that is done as a charity, and they have not too much even of that, because a good many of the young men when they come over will come to their friends and relations.

30846. *Chairman*.] Do you ever advance money to start a man in a little business?

No.

30847. Never?

No; in the beginning we used to grant them a few pounds as a loan, but then they could not repay it, and we were not strong enough to carry that on, so we did away with loans; but the "relief" that we give, amounting, as you will see, to 116 *l.* 18 *s.*, is relief to some widows that have been living for years there. If there is any tailor that happens to be poorly, and is not on a lodge, we may give some help in that case.

30848. Could you tell me how many persons you gave relief to last year or this year?

Taking it from January this year, we paid out in the month of January 29 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.*

30849. Can you say how many people you have relieved?

We have generally in the winter a great many more than we have in the summer; 29 *l.* in four weeks is at the rate of 7 *l.* odd a week.

30850. Could you tell me how many will be relieved in the year?

That would require for me to go through it. My son is the honorary secretary; I have not much to do with the books.

30851. Do you send many of them home again?

Several; but then, as it is now and has been lately, they do not let them land in Hamburg without they can show that they have sufficient means to travel through Germany. We have a gentleman who is much interested in the subject, who is a very charitable man; he does business with Holland, and he generally writes to the captains of these ships to get them free passes to either Boulogne or Amsterdam.

30852. As to those that you sent home, do you have to give them money enough to reach their own country?

No; we only assist them with a few shillings; when they come to Rotterdam or Amsterdam they will find some organisation of Jews, and they will apply there for assistance.

30853. Do you send any to America?

They go without sending.

30854. Do many of them go?

A good many.

30855. But there are more foreign Jews coming into Leeds than going out of it?

Yes.

30856. A good many more?

Yes.

30857. Was

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Mr. COHEN.

[Continued.]

30857. Was there not a conference some time ago of the Jewish boards of guardians in the country?

Yes; but which did not come to anything.

30858. Did you discuss this question of immigration?

No; the conference came to nothing at all. I should like to say that the trade which is carried on by the Jews now in Leeds is, I believe, a very great success and a great help to a great many families in the town of Leeds. It does not interfere at all with the retail trade. For instance, if I go into a shop with my own cloth and am measured for a suit I still have to pay 20 s. or 25 s. for the making of that suit. That shows that there cannot be much there of what they call sweating in the tailoring.

30859. They are mostly employed in making ready-made clothes, are they not?

Mostly, I suppose, for exportation.

30860. Do you suppose that the fact that there is this trade in Leeds has brought the foreign Jews there, or do you think that the foreign Jews have made the trade in Leeds?

Had it not been for the foreign Jews I do not think there would be so many houses established there as there are. I understand, that from Huddersfield, from Glasgow, and from Leicester, several warehouses came to Leeds to open a business. Also, you get suited with the work there from the tailors; and I suppose, also, that it is the fact of its being the central town for cloth, which would save having to send it backwards and forwards, that has established a great trade in Leeds.

30861. Is there anything more that you wish to say?

I have also to state that I have visited several workshops in Leeds. We have as our vice-president of this Jewish board of guardians, a gentleman who is a master tailor; and I have to see him often when we have to investigate cases. Whenever I have come to that shop it has always looked as nice and clean as anybody could wish, for a tailor's shop. In the same building what they call the Old Workhouse, there are two or three other tailors' shops, and when I pass I see them and am always satisfied that everything is going on very nicely and very respectably. I have also to say that I have been to Mr. Davis Joseph's shop many times, and I know, not from him, but indirectly, that he has had his hands for years, and they get wages, I should think, from 32 s. to 2 l. 2 s. a week.

The Witness is directed to withdraw:

THE REVEREND MOSES ABRAHAMS, B.A., is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

30862. *Chairman.*] How long have you been in Leeds?

Nearly three years.

30863. Can you tell the Committee anything on this subject of immigration of foreigners into Leeds?

It is certainly not stopped, but I do not think it is as much as it has been.

30864. It has been diminishing, since when?

Since I have been there I have not seen them come in such large quantities.

30865. But at one time they did come in large numbers?

So I understand the position. I only know from hearsay. It is generally current, that some years ago there was no congregation in Leeds; that is to say, it takes 10 to constitute a congregation, and they had great difficulty to form one. Of course I am speaking now of before my time, about 25 or 30 years ago.

30866. Do you know what the Jewish population is now?

It is between 5,000 and 6,000 altogether.

(11.)

3 E

30867. What

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Rev. MOSES ABRAHAMS, B.A.

Continued.

30867. What are they principally engaged in?

Principally in tailoring, some are jewellers. Those are the two chief occupations, but principally tailoring.

30868. Do you know where most of them come from?

They mostly come from Russia proper; a few from Poland, very few from Germany; there are not more than 35 Polish Jews in the whole of Leeds, the majority come from Russia.

30869. Not many Germans, you say?

Very few Germans.

30870. I suppose a great many have migrated from other parts of England to Leeds?

I only know a few that have come from Glasgow with some of these large firms that have also come from there.

30871. Do many of the foreign immigrants arrive in a destitute condition, without money?

There are some, but they are assisted by their friends and also by the Jewish board of guardians; and besides the board of guardians, there are three Jewish congregations in Leeds, with the largest of which I am connected as minister; they also spend money in relief. Our congregation, for instance, spends at times as much as from 80 £. to 100 £. a year in relief; and the other congregations (minor congregations) spend a proportionately less amount; so that there are altogether four sources.

30872. And in bad times do you give this relief to your people to enable them to live till they can learn a trade, or in sickness, or what?

To those who come over; if they cannot learn a trade, and if they are destitute, they receive relief, as also do the sick and the old and infirm, as stated by the treasurer of the board of guardians. We at the same time (I am also a member of the board guardians) give money to enable some of them to learn a trade; principally, of course, tailoring.

30873. Are you pretty well acquainted with the places where these people work, the places where they live?

Yes, fairly well acquainted with them.

30874. What have you got to say as to their sanitary condition?

As observed in a statement to Mr. Rickards, I thought the house accommodation fairly good, except that at times it was overcrowded, but that the sanitary arrangements might be improved; but with regard to the sanitary arrangements of the workshops, I am not in a position to give any evidence, because I did not take any particular notice of that.

30875. Do you know how many Jews would be employed in tailoring in Leeds?

I should think about 1,200. I forgot to mention to your Lordship, when you asked about the trades that they are engaged in, that the slipper-making is one also; there are from 200 to 300 employed in the slipper-making.

30876. Do you know whether the majority of the Jewish masters and middlemen are practical tailors themselves or not?

I cannot say for sure, but I have heard that some of the middlemen were not originally tailors.

30877. You were in Leeds, I presume, during the strike of last year?

Yes.

30878. Do you know what the cause of that strike was; what the object of it was?

I think it was that the men wanted shorter hours.

30879. Do you know if there is any truth in the idea that they wished to have society shops; and that no men should be employed who did not subscribe a certain sum to the society, and that when they had done so, employment was to be found for them even if it was necessary to turn out female labour to make room for them?

All

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[Continued.]

All I know of that is that I saw such a statement announced upon the placards in the streets, but I cannot say for sure whether it was true.

30880. You do not know whether it was or was not?

No. I know that that the men publicly denied the truth of the allegation.

30881. How do you account for the sudden collapse of the strike. It did not last very long, did it?

No.

30882. And there were about 1,000 men in it?

Yes.

30883. How do you account for the sudden collapse of it?

Because it was not affiliated to the trade council, and they could not hold out; the society which they had has now collapsed. I attribute that more especially to the fact that a former president of the three branches has left Leeds.

30884. I presume you know the circumstances of the people pretty well, and I would like to know, if you have got any opinion upon the subject, whether, in your opinion, the strike was for what I might term a legitimate object, to alter the hours of labour, or was there anything improper in the object?

I think that the hours of labour depend upon the demand for labour and competition. According to the prices that are paid for the various articles, it seems to me that the work from eight to eight is perfectly legitimate. If the men wish to have the same prices I do not see how they could demand less hours. They were justified, I think, in demanding shorter hours if they wished it, but not at the same wages.

30885. There is no society now, I presume, among the Jews?

No society; at least, I hear nothing of it, so I presume it has collapsed.

30886. Is there anything further you would like to say?

I should like to remark, that in certain cases I have known for a fact that some of these so-called sweaters, when they have drawn their money from the warehouses, have not had sufficient to pay their men and their hands, and they have had to lose a little. I have known that happen on more than one occasion that several of these sweaters have been out of pocket for some weeks.

30887. But do they not know the price they will have to pay for their labour before they take the work out?

Yes; they know the price, but at times, I suppose, the price is too high for them.

30888. Do you mean that they have to pay too much for labour, or that they do not get enough from the warehouse?

I merely wish to show that at times they are really sweated themselves.

30889. There is great competition, I suppose you mean, on their part among themselves, one with another?

Great competition. That reminds me of another point that I intended to mention; that since the strike some of these strikers have themselves become middlemen, and that has increased the competition.

30890. The men who went on strike have become middlemen?

Yes; I know one instance where one of these strikers became a middleman; and, of course, the competition became keener through that.

30891. How would they find the funds that are required for setting up as middlemen?

I do not believe that much capital is required; they can get the machines on the hire system.

30892. So that in the case to which you refer, the man having failed to obtain work as a workman, became a master?

Yes.

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[*Continued.*]

30893. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Do you know if many of the population of Leeds have left it, and gone to other towns?

Not that I am aware of.

30894. I ask the question because we were told that a Jew who did not know where to go to went to Leeds; I wanted to know whether, having got to Leeds, they then went to other towns?

I think it is rather the opposite; that they come to Leeds after having been to other towns.

30895. The population of Leeds is increasing gradually?
It is increasing gradually.

30896. Lord *Monkswell.*] I suppose what you mean by the sweater taking a contract at a loss is that the sweater will sometimes take the contract at a loss rather than lose the custom of the firm?

Exactly.

30897. *Chairman.*] Have you anything else to say?

I heard a gentleman say this morning that the factory inspectors do not look after the girls with regard to their working hours. I would just merely like to record my experience. A sub-inspector came to me and said, Should I ever hear that the girls were worked in that manner, would I please let them know; and he further remarked that sometimes the girls would be too frightened to mention it to them as they might fear the consequences, but they might more readily confide in me as minister. If such things are said by the inspectors it does not look as if they wished to shirk their work. I merely make this remark in justice to them, after what was said this morning.

30898. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Have you come across any instances of that yourself?

No, I have not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered,—That this Committee be adjourned to To-morrow,
at Eleven o'clock.

Die Veneris, 31^o Maii, 1889.

L O R D S P R E S E N T :

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord THRING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL), IN THE CHAIR.

MR. GEORGE HENRY LASCELLES RICKARDS, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

30899. *Chairman.*] You are one of Her Majesty's Inspectors at Leeds under the Factory Act ?

I am ; I have been there for 30 years.

30900. What is your staff composed of ?

I have one assistant, junior to me.

30901. And what would be the extent of your district ?

It is more simple to state that Leeds being my head-quarters, I go down to Hull, up the east coast from Hull to Whitby, and inland from Whitby to Pickering and Malton, and up to Thirsk by way of Kirby Moorside and Helmsley, and down to Leeds by way of Ripon, Pateley, and Harrogate. I then take all the large villages up the valley of the Aire westwards, from Leeds to Shipley, Saltaire, Bingley, Keighley, Skipton.

30902. Have you any idea how many factories and workshops, places subject to your jurisdiction, there are in your district ?

I have a little over 2,000 factories, and I think I may say about 3,000 workshops of one kind and another.

30903. And you have one assistant ?

I have one assistant. Your Lordship will allow me to explain that I have given you the outer boundaries of my district ; of course I embrace the whole within those boundaries.

30904. And you have an experience of over 30 years of Leeds ?

That is so ; and there has been one other inspector at Leeds before me ; that was Mr. Robert Baker.

30905. Are you pretty well acquainted with the clothing trade ?

I am.

30906. That has developed very greatly of late years, has it not ?

Very largely.

30907. Since when did the great development take place ?

I should say very largely within the last 20 years.

30908. And it is still increasing ?

It is still increasing. As some proof of that fact I may say that I know one large establishment in the town employing several hundreds, and I remember the time when they employed only six girls in a cellar ; they are now one of the wealthiest firms in the town.

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[Continued.]

30909. And the number of foreigners employed in the trade has very much increased, has it not?

Very much so indeed.

30910. Can you give the Committee any figures or any information on that point?

I have 97 Jewish workshops.

30911. In Leeds?

Yes.

30912. Can you compare that with their number, say five years ago or 10 years ago?

I should think there would not be 10 or a dozen then.

30913. Five years ago, not ten or a dozen?

I should think not.

30914. Do they come mostly from other parts of England, or from abroad?

Almost entirely from abroad; some very few have come from Glasgow, but an insignificant number, not worth consideration.

30915. We have had the total Jewish population given us, I think, as about 5,000; do you know whether that is so?

I think that is a little under the mark, but that would include, of course, women and children.

30916. Have you any idea how many Jews would be employed in the tailoring trade, masters and men, males and females?

I have endeavoured to ascertain as well as I could; I think we may fairly say somewhere about 3,000.

30917. In your opinion has this foreign element created this great development of the ready-made clothing trade, or has the development of the trade induced the foreign element to come?

I think that they work together; I think that they each have their own influence. The trade has very largely developed, and the supply I think, has not kept pace with it.

30918. Not kept pace with the demand?

No; so that when Jews have come they have easily got work.

30919. And is it the case still that the supply is scarcely up to the demand?

I think it is.

30920. The trade then is pretty good in this tailoring trade?

Yes; it is especially at this season of the year.

30921. Before there were so many foreigners engaged in this trade, was there any ready-made clothing made in Leeds, do you know?

Yes, but not much, compared with what it is now; I should say very little indeed.

30922. Have you any idea why it is that the coat making appears to be mainly in the hands of the Jews?

I think they seem to be better acquainted with the work.

30923. It has been stated before the Committee that a considerable number, at any rate, of foreigners arrive with very scanty means to support themselves, and without any knowledge of any trade; is that so, do you think?

That is so.

30924. And that then they go to their friends, and go to the Jewish Board of Guardians, and are put in the way of learning the trade, it being the easiest trade, and in a very short time they are able to earn comparatively fair wages?

That is so.

30925. You

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[Continued.]

30925. You gave us the number of Jewish workshops in Leeds; I think it will be well if you can give us the number of all establishments, all the shops and factories engaged in the clothing trade?

In addition to the Jewish workshops which I have already mentioned, I have 27 of the large establishments; they are factories.

30926. Then as to these domestic workshops, do they come under you at all?

They do if we only knew of them; I have endeavoured to ascertain as well as I could the exact number of those that are employed by the clothing establishments, and I think I am quite right in saying there would be a thousand of them.

30927. You would include in that, places where only members of the family are working?

That is so; some few I believe have one or two girls not of the family.

30928. But you have great difficulty, I understand you, in finding out where these domestic workshops are?

Very great difficulty indeed. If your Lordship will allow me to do so afterwards I shall be able to suggest what I think is desirable with reference to that.

30929. Perhaps you would do so now, while we are on the point?

I think it would be better for these places all to be registered by the police, and that they should adopt the plan which has been found to answer in Glasgow with reference to the lodging-houses; that they should be registered and have a tin register over their doors so that we could see them. Unless that were done we might pass through a street where there might be fifty but we might not know of one.

30930. You think, in fact, that there ought to be a compulsory registration?

A compulsory registration, I think.

30931. If that were done, and you had no great difficulty in finding out where work is carried on, do you think that you yourself or any two persons are capable of managing so large a district?

No, I do not; I think I should require my staff to be increased.

30932. Do you think it would be a good plan that the firms who employ outworkers, in order to have any work done outside, should be obliged to furnish you with a list of them?

I think it would; I should have no difficulty in my own district in obtaining that list, because they are always ready to give me any help they can.

30933. We have had it stated evidence that a certain number of men who were unable to obtain work after the strike last year have become middlemen employers?

That is so.

30934. How did they get the necessary funds to start themselves in business?

I believe that they easily get started with a machine or two; they only have to obtain a security from some of their friends perhaps for a couple of machines to start with, and they pay about half-a-crown a week until the payment is completed; the machines are then their own.

30935. Do you think that these men acting as sweaters, as they have been called, in a small way, can earn more or less than a man working; in other words, will a man working at this trade for an employer earn more or less than a man who employs, and acts as a middleman?

Some of the middlemen tell me that they do not make as much money, as middlemen, as they did when they were working; many of them have told me that.

30936. Because in that case it would appear as if the men, unable to obtain work on account of the strike, had become employers as a last resort, because they were unable to obtain work?

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[Continued.]

I have not met with any who could not obtain work; I do not think that would apply.

30937. But you have had it stated to you that as a matter of fact these middlemen or sweaters in some cases do not make any more money than if they were working for somebody else?

Not so much, they tell me.

30938. Do you know whether it is the general rule for the Jews and Christians to work together?

Oh yes.

30939. Does it lead to any inconveniences?

Not the slightest; there is the greatest possible harmony betwixt them.

30940. And are these shops, in your opinion, fairly well conducted. Do the men and women work together in the same room generally?

Yes, they do.

30941. Does that lead, do you think, to any immorality, or anything of that kind?

I do not believe it does. I have never known any reason to think so.

30942. Now as to their sanitary condition; have you anything to say on that point?

As regards the sanitary conditions of the places, up to last year I may say some of them were appalling.

30943. Some of what places?

Some of the closets; they were simply appalling; I had no notion that anything of the kind existed to such an extent. No complaint had ever been made to me.

30944. And you found them very bad?

That was so; of course in those cases we have to communicate with the sanitary inspectors of the district, and then they take charge of that matter.

30945. Well, do you know whether anything has been done to remedy that state of things?

Oh, yes.

30946. Were these in domestic workshops, or in the Jewish shops?

In the Jewish shops.

30947. There are such things as Christian sweaters, are there not, in Leeds?

There are some Christian middlemen who make the waistcoats, but I have no reason to find any fault with them.

30948. Do you mean that the shops of the Jewish middlemen would contrast unfavourably in a sanitary point of view with the shops of the Christian middlemen?

They are all fairly cleanly, one is just as good as another; if I have any fault to find it is remedied at once. For instance, if the lime-washing is over due, I have only to speak about it and urge it, and it is done.

30949. You said that some of the Jewish workshops you have found in a very bad condition; I want to know whether you think they are in anyway worse than the shops of the Christian middlemen?

I think, as a rule, the Jewish shops are not as cleanly; I think these Jews have not such a good idea of comfort and cleanliness as the Christians have.

30950. Does any inconvenience arise where Jews and Christians are working together, on account of the Saturday and Sunday work?

I never found any. If the Christians predominate in the shop, then they would work on Saturday; if the Jewish people predominate, then they would work on Sunday. But of course we have power to prevent them working both days: several have been prosecuted for it.

30951. Do

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[Continued.]

30951. Do you remember the strike last year ?
I do.

30952. Do you know what its objects were ; what was the demand of the men ?

I think the men wanted to have command over the middlemen more than they had ; I think they were a little jealous to see the middlemen in better circumstances than themselves.

30953. And I think you said that as far as you are aware, the men who have been on strike have had no difficulty since in getting work ?

I do not believe they have ; I think the question was never asked them.

30954. Of course when you say that when the Jewish element predominates in a shop they work on Sunday, you do not mean the Committee to infer that the Christians work on Sunday ?

Oh, dear no.

30955. In that case the shop would be shut on Saturday, and open on Sunday ?

That is so. At many of them where the Christian women work on Saturday, the men work on Sunday in the Jewish shops, but only men ; if we find anybody under 18, or any female, of course we take proceedings against the employer.

30956. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You very seldom find a case of that sort, do you ?

Not very often.

30957. Lord *Sandhurst*.] But I understand you to say that there are a great many domestic workshops that you do not know of ?

That is so, but the domestic workshops are the places where perhaps a woman is doing what is called finishing work, and she has perhaps two daughters to help her, and they do it in the intervals of their household duty ; they are not working all day ; for instance, they will be working perhaps an hour or a couple of hours before dinner, and then in the afternoon when she has got her house cleaned up, and so on.

30958. *Chairman*.] Do you know whether it is customary for the women to take work home to do ?

I have heard it stated in evidence, and believe it is so done in some cases, but not to a great extent.

30959. Do you think it is likely that Christian women would be obliged to take their work home to work on Sunday ?

I have no reason to know that ; I have heard nothing of it.

30960. Would you suggest interfering in any way with the hours of work at home ?

I think if it can be stopped it should. I think when a girl has been working a full day in a large factory she should not have to work at home.

30961. Can you suggest any way in which that could be insisted on ?

Only by having the tin plate up, I think, so that we should know where to find them.

30962. Then you mean that you would not only have such houses registered but have them put under the provisions of the Act ?

I would.

30963. Would not that tell hardly upon women who might want to do a little work late at night ?

Occasionally it would.

30964. But still you think on the whole it would be better that it should be done ?

I think when a woman has done a full day's work she should have rest. I know that very frequently the women have asked to be allowed to take work

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[Continued.]

home; that, of course, would naturally lead one to infer that they do not feel it any hardship. So far as Leeds is concerned I do not think it would apply for more than perhaps a few weeks before Easter and a few weeks before Whitsuntide; those are the principal busy times in Leeds.

30965. There is no association for the Jewish working men at present, is there?

I believe not.

30966. Do you know if there is a tendency among the large houses to give up this out-working and do all the work on their own premises?

I think I have only two that do it to any extent at present.

30967. Do you think it would be any benefit to the hands employed if the work was done on the premises?

Yes, I think it would; I think they would be more under proper regulations.

30968. Do you know anything of the hours of work for men in these middlemen's shops?

Some of them work late, but it is principally pressers; I do not think that the machinists do.

30969. We have had it in evidence that they work very late sometimes?

Some of the pressers do, I believe.

30970. And also that for a considerable portion of the year, business is very slack with them; is that so?

Yes, that is so.

30971. That they may be working only three or four days a week, and sometimes have no work at all for some weeks?

I have no doubt that is the case.

30972. And that, although a man might be earning pretty good wages when he is working, his average weekly earnings would not be very good; do you think that is so?

Yes, that is so.

30973. I think the vests are nearly all in the hands of Christian out-workers, are they not?

That is so.

30974. Do you know whether the Jewish middlemen are beginning to compete in that?

They are.

30975. Have you any opinion as to whether this foreign immigration of comparatively unskilled labour is prejudicial or beneficial to the trade?

I think up to the present time the trade could not have been done without it.

30976. What do you mean by saying "up to the present time"?

I think the trade has been so good and is now so extensive, and increasing so much, that I am quite sure the principal houses could not have turned out the goods they have turned out if they had not had the Jewish element.

30977. As long as the trade increases and the demand increases, you think the supply has not been too large?

No.

30978. But you mean us to infer that you think a time will come when the demand will naturally slacken off, and that then unless the supply checks itself it will be too large?

I think it would. So long as the trade remains so flourishing as it is, the demand certainly is greater than the supply.

30979. Lord Sandhurst.] Is Leeds increasing in population?

Yes, it is.

30980. Greatly?

Yes.

30981. Chairman.]

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MR. RICKARDS.

[Continued.]

30981. *Chairman.*] Is there any of this so-called sweating in any other trade except the tailoring trade in Leeds?

I think the only other trade to which it would apply would be the Jew slipper men.

30982. Do you find it in the boot and shoe making?

No, I do not; I have 15 Jew slipper-men who employ I should say, roughly, 300 people, and in the case of some of them the people complain of the wages being insignificant; that is to say, a man has to work very hard indeed to make anything like a proper wage.

30983. I suppose the evils, if any, would be of the same character as in the tailoring trade?

That is so to a certain extent; but I think it requires to be perhaps explained a little further. I may state to your Lordships that we have a great deal of betting amongst that class of men in Leeds; it is the great bane of the Jewish element where it is entered into.

30984. What class of men do you mean; the masters?

No, the workmen; the slipper-men. Their hours amongst themselves are said to be from seven in the morning to eight at night, but many of them do not go near their work perhaps till 11; they are on an open space which is called the Midden (why it is so called I do not know), and sometimes there have been several hundreds of these men there. The men remain there perhaps two or three hours, and the consequence is that they have to work late at night. I took pains to ascertain the facts from two of the most respectable of the employers of these men, and they showed me their books. If your Lordships will pardon me I will just read a few of the items that I copied out of the men's books, showing the wages that the employer has actually paid to his workmen.

30985. We are not inquiring into that particular trade, but I will just ask you this with regard to the Jewish slipper trade you mention; do you say that the wages are higher or lower than in the ready-made clothing trade?

I should think that the man earns better wages, where he attends to his work, in the slipper trade.

30986. I think we will not go further into that?

I will only say this further, that I am quite certain there is no sweating in that trade, if the men will only attend to their work.

30987. Do you think the Factory and Workshops Act as it stands is satisfactory?

Yes; fairly so, I think.

30988. Can you suggest any alterations in it?

I think all these places should be registered.

30989. That you have already told us. As I understand you, you think that all places where work is carried on ought to be brought under the Act, but you think the Act itself is fairly satisfactory, and does not require amendment?

That is so.

30990. And you also think that additional inspectors are required?

Oh, yes. I think that is necessary.

30991. It has been suggested to the Committee that it would be advisable that there should be sub-inspectors appointed who have a technical knowledge of the trade of the district; do you see any force in that suggestion?

Not the slightest.

30992. *Lord Sandhurst.*] The tailoring has increased very much I understand, in Leeds?

Very largely.

30993. And that is owing to the very large number of these Jews who have come into Leeds?

I think the increase of the trade induced the Jews to come.

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[*Continued.*]

30994. Then it was the trade that induced the Jews, not the Jews who induced the trade, you think?

Yes, I think so. Now I think one cannot do without the other.

30995. Then in addition to the Jews that come, do you notice any immigration from country districts?

No; I have not seen anything of that.

30996. In regard to this extra inspection and registration, is it possible that it might be so minute as to become vexatious?

Not to the people.

30997. Not to the workmen themselves, you think?

No.

30998. And then I suppose in your inspections you are well met by the people?

Yes.

30999. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do you think it would be necessary to make it compulsory on large establishments to furnish a list of the workshops employed by them, or do you think it would be sufficient to throw the duty of registration on the police and trust to the justice of the large establishments?

I am quite sure, as far as my own district is concerned, I have only to ask any of them to give me a list and they would give it.

31000. You think, if the duty is thrown on the police, there would be no difficulty experienced by them in getting the information?

No difficulty.

31001. You said you had 2,000 factories, and 3,000 workshops in your district?

About that.

31002. Do you find that sweating exists much and that you have complaints in other workshops than the tailoring ones?

No; but I have no complaints in the tailoring ones, not the least. One woman was pointed out to me who was earning 38 s. a week. Of course that is an exceptional case; she is a very clever woman; she is a very expert woman, very quick at her work, and is working by piece, and that is the wage she had paid her in one week.

31003. In the tailoring trade?

Yes.

31004. Lord *Monkswell*.] The best men tailors get more than that, do they not?

Yes, I should say from 25 s. to 42 s.

31005. Do they earn 3 l. a week sometimes?

I have never met with that. The slipper-maker that I was mentioning, he got 3 l. 17 s., but he had to pay 1 l. out of this to a man working under him.

31006. Now as regards the girls, you say that the girls ought not to have to work at home; is it a fact that they are at first obliged to work at home, or do they work at home merely to please themselves?

I do not think that they are often required to do it, but I believe they are frequently asked to do it.

31007. Suppose a girl is asked to work at home during a pressure of work, and refuses to do so, do you suppose she would run any chance of being dismissed?

I think if she were dismissed she would soon get employment again.

31008. So you think that practically girls do not work at home unless they like to?

That is so.

31009. I suppose

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[Continued.]

31009. I suppose by "sweating" you mean long hours and low wages? That is what I understand by it; I do not think it applies to Leeds.

31010. What is your opinion about extending the sanitary provisions, as to lime-washing and so on, to all workshops, including workshops where only men are employed.

I have no difficulty in that. We have the power now.

31011. I thought the lime-washing only applied to cases where women and children are employed?

But all workshops are obliged now to be kept in a proper and cleanly condition; we have no difficulty about it in the slightest. Only a week or two ago I requested a Jew middleman to lime-wash his place, and in 10 days it was done.

31012. There are special provisions as to lime-washing where women and children are employed that do not affect places where men are employed; you do not find however, as I understand you, that any difficulty arises from those special provisions not being applicable to the places where men only are employed?

Not the least.

31013. *Chairman.*] You mentioned the number of villages in your district; do you know whether there is any tailoring work sent out to be finished or made up in the country villages?

None whatever.

31014. Do you know whether the same system that is pursued in the ready made trade is commencing to be pursued in the bespoke trade also, or is the bespoke trade entirely in the hands of the skilled workmen?

I think so; some of the ready-made tailors may do a little bespoke trade, but I think it is very trifling.

31015. You have had a long experience; we have had it mentioned before the Committee by some witnesses that the tailors are not very steady; by other witnesses it was stated that they were very steady; by others that they were improving very much; have you any opinion about that?

I think that the Christian tailors are very unsteady at the beginning of the week; I think, as a whole, the Jewish tailors are much steadier.

31016. Much soberer?

Much more sober.

31017. With regard to Christian tailors, from your experience of over 30 years should you say that they are improving in that respect or not?

I think they are. I think there is less of it.

31018. I think you said that you did not consider that both sexes working together led to immorality?

I have not the least reason to think anything of the kind.

31019. I have received a letter from Leeds suggesting that the middlemen take advantage of the position of employers that they have over their girls, and that the ruin of a great number of the girls is the result; have you ever heard of that?

I have never heard of such a thing.

31020. You do not think it is likely to be true?

I do not think it is; and a girl can so soon get work in another shop that it is her own fault if she stays in such a shop as that indicated.

31021. Is there anything else you wish to say to the Committee?

I should like to speak with regard to what Mr. Sweeney said yesterday. He made a complaint that some complaints of his had not been attended to by my department; he complained of the unsanitary condition of some place not being attended to. I can only say I never had a communication from him, or from the association that he represents, or any communication at all, and what he said on that point is utterly untrue.

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Mr. RICKARDS.

[*Continued.*]

31022. I do not remember exactly what he did say?

He found fault that some complaint had not been attended to.

31023. He spoke of you or the sanitary authorities, I forget which?

He spoke of my department. The complaint if made, should have been made to me personally, not to my assistant; I am responsible of course for the proper work being done, and no complaint ever came to me from him, or from the association he represents; but he stated that he had made a complaint, and that a promise was given that it should be looked after, but that it never was.

31024. Of course this complaint would not have been made to you, unless it occurred in a factory?

Or a workshop.

31025. And then it would be only with regard to the insanitary conditions under certain limitations?

If he had made the complaint he stated to your Lordships, I should have attended to it, whether it was in a factory or workshop; because the sanitary authorities in Leeds I find work with such thorough enthusiasm with me that any complaint that I have to draw their attention to is at once attended to.

31026. Do you think that giving the factory inspectors any greater sanitary authority would be advantageous?

Practically I do not find any necessity for that, because I never have any difficulty.

31027. You have to apprise the proper sanitary authorities, and then they act?

That is so. Sometimes I get a thing done without their interference; having been so long in the district, and so well known, and apparently having the confidence of the people, anything that I require to be done is done at once without any trouble.

31028. Lord *Sandhurst*.] You have had an enormous experience; an experience of 30 years I believe?

That is so.

31029. And your experience has been, that the condition of the working classes has very much improved since 30 years ago?

Very much.

31030. Do you find that the improvement has been more rapid since the Education Acts; that the effect of those Acts has been to make people more civilised?

I think that there has been a gradual improvement for more than 20 years.

31031. That is to say the Education Acts have had a direct stimulus upon the civilisation of the people?

I think so.

31032. Lord *Monkswell*.] As to lime-washing, do I understand that you enter into any workshop where they are not in the habit of employing any young person or any woman for any purpose whatever?

I do not suppose I could find you a dozen such shops in the whole of my district; shops in which there was not either a woman or a young person employed.

31033. But as regards those dozen shops where exclusively men are employed you find no difficulty as to the lime-washing; you go into them just as into the other shops?

Not the least difficulty.

31034. You do not make any exception whatever; wherever there is a workshop you go in?

Just the same.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

31st May 1889.

MR. AMMON PLATT, is called in ; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

31035. *Chairman.*] You are the Inspector of Factories of Manchester, are you not?

Yes.

31036. What is your staff?

Two ; including myself as junior.

31037. Can you give the Committee your district ?

Manchester, Warrington, Northwich, Newton Heath, Harpurhey, Gorton, Openshaw, Longright, and Blacklew.

31038. Do you know how many factories there are in the district?

Two thousand five hundred.

31039. Do you know how many workshops ?

About 2,000.

31040. I suppose the factories give you comparatively less to do than the workshops ?

That is so.

31041. Do you think that there are many workshops that elude you altogether?

I am quite certain of it.

31042. Do you think that men in small shops, small employers, change their place of business on purpose to elude you, shift about frequently ?

I do not think that is general ; one or two such cases have come under my notice.

31043. Do you suggest that there should be any means taken whereby the inspectors could be informed where work was being carried on ?

Yes, I think those places ought to be placed under the same conditions as the factories ; they ought to give notice to the inspector.

31044. All places where work is carried on ?

Yes.

31045. Even where members of the family only are working ?

Yes.

31046. Do you think that the people would put up with that, or that they would object to it ?

Probably they would object to it.

31047. Do you find generally that they resent your visits ; I mean the hands employed, and so on ?

Not at all.

31048. Do you know at all how many workshops and factories there are in your district where the tailoring trade is carried on ?

At least 200.

31049. Does that include outworkers who work in their own rooms ?

It includes the middlemen.

31050. But not the family workshops ?

No.

31051. What would you say was their sanitary condition ?

On the whole it is very good indeed.

31052. Is it better than it used to be. Perhaps you will first tell me how long have you been in that district ?

I have only had 18 months' experience in Manchester.

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Mr. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31053. Do these middlemen generally have the work carried on in their own houses or do they have separate workshops?

In their own homes in the majority of cases; there are about 120 middlemen, and at least 100 of them have workshops connected with their own homes.

31054. Do they work in bedrooms?

Yes. In some cases they work in one room, in other cases in two; they take down the middle wall then, and make it into one room.

31055. Do you think that this clothing is made up under circumstances likely to propagate infectious disease?

No, I should not think so; the work-rooms are kept fairly clean, and are regularly lime-washed; I have only had to report five of them for dirty rooms out of the whole lot that I have visited.

31056. Have you any information to give to the Committee as to the rate of wages and the hours of work in these middlemen's shops?

They work very long hours about this time of the year; one-half of the year they have little or nothing to do, but now there is no knowing what hours they work; you may visit them day or night, and no matter where you go you find them at it. On Thursday I came on them betwixt 12 and 1 in the morning, and I visited about 20 places in that time, and there were men working in them.

31057. Then they would not come under you at all, would they?

No.

31058. How did you get in?

Knocked at the door, and they opened it.

31059. They do not object?

No.

31060. Would these places employ women also?

Yes.

31061. But the women were not visible?

No.

31062. Then you would have a right to enter if they employed women at all?

Yes.

31063. Do you think that it often occurs that the women are smuggled away somewhere when the inspector visits the place?

No doubt of it.

31064. You think the Act is evaded?

Yes.

31065. Then the condition of this ready-made clothing trade is, a great deal too much work for half the year and too little work the other half?

That is so.

31066. Is that natural and inevitable to the trade, or is it brought about by any means that could be remedied?

It is according to the seasons; the winter clothing season and the summer clothing season.

31067. Do you think the Act requires amendment in any way, that any amendment of it would prevent these evils?

There is only one way that I can suggest, and that is to compel the employer or occupier to afford access to the workshops by leaving the doors leading to the workrooms unfastened when work is going on, so that the inspector can walk in at any time.

31068. In these places a man may have three rooms in a house and be working in two rooms; if he says the other is a bedroom would you have any right to go into it?

No.

31069. So

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Mr. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31069. So that he might have girls or women working in the two workrooms and let them walk into the bedroom and remain in it while you were there?

Yes.

31070. Have you seen many of these operatives lately in the clothing trade relative to this inquiry?

I have.

31071. Have you found any reluctance among them to give evidence?

Great reluctance; I have had the greatest possible difficulty to get witnesses at all.

31072. Why are they reluctant to come?

Frightened, I suppose; they say that they do not want to lose their situations; they do not care to give evidence.

31073. Afraid of losing work?

Yes.

31074. Is there great competition to get work?

Yes, I should think so.

31075. You think the supply is larger than the demand?

Yes.

31076. As you have been in Manchester for so short a time, I suppose it is no use my asking you whether the foreign element is decreasing or increasing

As far as the tailoring trade is concerned I think it is about stationary in Manchester. I have prepared a short paper here, if I may read it, showing the growth of the tailoring trade in Manchester (*it is handed to the Chairman*).

31077. I see you give the names of various middlemen and the rate of wages they pay?

Yes.

31078. How did you get these; from the employers or from the employed?

The employers and the employed.

31079. We have had a good deal of evidence as to wages already; I do not know that it is necessary to take this. I think you heard the evidence given the other day from Manchester?

Yes.

31080. Have you anything to say about it?

I think that the case of Smolenski is an exceptional case. I may say that in the whole course of my inquiry I never came across an instance like it. No doubt Smolenski spoke the truth as far as he was concerned.

31081. But you think that was very unusual?

Very unusual. In the first place he is not a skilled workman.

31082. Do you mean unusual as to the hours of work or as to the rate of pay?

If he were a skilled man I consider he would do twice the amount of work that he does at the same rates.

31083. But the hours that he mentioned were so very long?

He is quite right there, it is general at this time of the year.

31084. Do you mean that it is an ordinary thing for men to work so long as that in the busy time of the year?

Yes.

31085. Do you know whether these middlemen ever sub-contract again; put out their work to anybody else?

I do not think there is much of that.

31086. Do you think there is any of it?

Probably there may be some isolated cases; there are none that have come under my notice in the tailoring trade.

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Mr. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31087. Is there any of what has been called sweating in any other trade in Manchester?

Well, I should think so in the mantle-making and the shirt-making. The prices there appear to be very low. A great quantity of shirts in Manchester are given out to middlemen and outworkers.

31088. You think the same thing obtains in the shirt-making and in mantle-making?

I do; and umbrella-making as well.

31089. In waterproofing?

Yes.

31090. I presume the circumstances would be similar to those in the tailoring trade?

Yes, they receive the material ready cut and make it up.

31091. Making allowance for the differences incidental to the trade, the state of things would be similar?

That is so.

31092. Is there anything peculiar in the waterproofing?

I think it is all peculiar.

31093. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] These workshops in which you found the men working these late hours, were they workshops which during the day-time employed women and children?

Yes.

31094. Do you think it would be any use to insist upon such workshops closing at the regular hours, so as to make the men who wished to work longer hours work in workshops in which only men worked?

I would not like to suggest that.

31095. You think it would cause so much friction?

Yes.

31096. But also that it would be difficult to prevent the shops containing women?

Yes.

31097. *Chairman*.] As regards the waterproofing, what is the condition of that trade?

That trade is a very growing trade, growing rapidly, no doubt of it. During the last six months no less than 16 makers have commenced in Manchester, 10 being middlemen.

31098. How is the business carried on; there are certain large firms I suppose?

Yes, there are certain large firms.

31099. Do they do any of the work on their own premises?

Yes.

31100. The same as the tailoring, they do some and put out some?

Yes.

31101. And with regard to what they put out, is it entirely given out to middlemen, or is some of it given out to what have been called out-workers?

No, it would be given out to middlemen.

31102. Do they do it all on their premises?

Yes.

31103. They do not put it out again?

Not so far as I know.

31104. About how many hands do these middlemen employ?

From 300 to 400 between them.

31105. How

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MR. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31105. How many middlemen would there be?

Eighteen middlemen.

31106. Some of them are small employers, with three or four hands, and that kind of thing I suppose?

Yes, or more than that.

31107. What would be the general number that they would employ?

One can hardly say, because this time of year or a month hence they will want double the staff that they have now; the season is coming on and they will want the hands.

31108. Is the waterproof season approaching?

Yes, the waterproof season is between August and December.

31109. Then they will be much fuller?

Yes.

31110. What becomes of these hands in the slack time?

I suppose they make sufficient during the busy time to keep themselves going till it comes round again. Some go hawking; those that have not put a little on one side and will not go round hawking will have to starve, or get on as best they can.

31111. Are the middlemen practical men that work themselves?

Yes.

31112. Are females employed largely?

Not to a very large extent. I should think there are from 60 to 70 Jewesses working in the waterproof trade; of course I speak now of Manchester only. Two of the principle firms are at Salford, which is outside the Manchester district; I do not include those.

31113. Are these middlemen in the water-proofing Jews?

Yes; there is only one Englishman who is a middleman in that trade.

31114. Then the circumstances are very much the same as in the tailoring?

Very much the same, except that the water-proofing is all in one season, whereas the tailoring is in two.

31115. One busy time in the water-proofing?

One busy time.

31116. Do they employ learners or apprentices?

Yes.

31117. Do you know anything about the wages paid by these middlemen?

They vary; some have them three months for nothing; some have them six weeks, and some a month, and others give them a small consideration to commence with.

31118. After six months what can they earn, have you any idea?

Probably they will be paid 5 s. or 6 s. per week.

31119. And can they earn more than that later?

When they get proficient they put them on piece-work at certain prices.

31120. Do you know what prices they pay?

Of course it varies; there is 6 d. per garment, and 1 s. per garment; it all depends upon the kind of work on which they are engaged; the prices range in these middlemen's shops from 4 d. to 1 s. per garment; some go a little higher.

31121. And do you know at all what these girls and women can earn at this piece-work when they are proficient?

From 18 s. up to 20 s. per week I should think.

31122. That I understand would be for six months in the year?

From August to December.

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Mr. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31123. Do you know whether they generally are acquainted with any other trade that they can do during the remainder of the year?

I do not.

31124. Are these learners indentured regularly; have they any articles drawn up?

In some cases they have.

31125. Do you know the nature of them?

I could not say, to be accurate; I would not like to give an opinion upon that. One has been brought under my notice, but I have not made a note of it at all.

31126. I think you said that in your opinion all places where work is carried on should be registered?

That is my opinion?

31127. And that they should be put under the regulations and provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act?

That is so.

31128. Therefore you would not allow women to work late at night in their own homes?

So far as the domestic workshops are concerned I would scarcely like to interfere with that part of the Act, only so far as keeping an abstract of the Act within the four walls of the workroom.

31129. Would you interfere at all with the liberty of women to work in their own homes at any time they chose?

I should think it would be under the head of a domestic workshop.

31130. You draw no distinction between a shop where a women alone is working in her own home, or is assisted by members of her family, say her daughters, and a place where hired labour is employed?

I would bring all under the head of a domestic workshop; that is to say, where a wife only works, or a wife and members of the same family.

31131. But you would not interfere with the hours they work in those places?

I do not know that I would interfere with the hours they work.

31132. Would you put them under the Act?

I would put them under the Act. I would not interfere with the Act; I would not alter the Act; I mean I would not curtail the hours.

31133. But you would subject them to the Act?

Certainly.

31134. Do not you think it would be looked upon as a great hardship?

I do not know; from six in the morning till nine at night is quite enough I think.

31135. But a woman living at home with children to look after might not have any time to work during the day, and might be glad to work an hour or two or three hours at night to gain the money?

There might be something said on that score, but I think nine o'clock is quite late enough.

31136. You think the advantages of subjecting them to the Act would be greater than the disadvantages?

I do think so.

31137. Do you think additional inspection is necessary; I mean a larger staff of inspectors?

So far as the present time is concerned I do not advocate more, but if all these domestic workshops were brought under inspection, I think it would be absolutely necessary to have a larger staff.

31138. Is

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Mr. PLATT.

[Continued.]

31138. Is there anything you wish to say, any suggestion you have to make?

I would like to make one or two observations about these "greeners," these men that come over here, the most miserable looking objects, starving, and commence working at very low rates. I have come across several cases where they are working for from 6 s. to 8 s. and 10 s. a week, and in one case the man has a wife and seven children to keep out of it. His children are abroad, and he comes over here and leaves the family in their own country. And so far as my observations go and my inquiries lead me, I think there is rather an increase of these greeners, they appear to be coming in to Manchester.

31139. And you consider that objectionable?

Well, I should think so.

31140. Do you mean of the depressing effect on wages?

Yes. But I think there is a tendency in the water-proofing making to employ Christian labour.

31141. In your opinion is the foreign immigration such an evil that you think it ought to be checked or stopped?

I would not like to suggest that.

31142. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Is the water-proofing a healthy occupation?

I should think so. I do not think there is anything injurious about it.

31143. Is it carried on under fairly healthy conditions?

Yes.

31144. *Chairman*.] Do you consider the foreign workman to be superior to the English workman in sobriety, steadiness, and so on?

I do (I am sorry to admit it), because a Jew tailor while he has work does not go off drinking; he stays on the board from morning to night, from one week's end to the other.

31145. And their method of living is cheaper than that of the Christians?

Yes, no doubt of it.

31146. We have had it mentioned to the Committee that these "greeners," as they are called, are able to live on diet on what an Englishman cannot live, and under circumstances in which an Englishman cannot exist; do you think that that is the case?

There is no doubt of it.

31147. Is there anything else you would like to say?

I do not think so.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

GRACE GADDIS, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

31148. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?

In the waterproof trade.

31149. How long have you been working at that?

About four years and a half.

31150. After you left school?

Yes.

31151. Were you apprenticed to the trade?

Yes.

31152. Is there any regular form of apprenticeship?

I served two years and eight months the first time.

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31153. Was there any agreement drawn up between you and the man you work for?

Yes, I signed an indenture (*producing one*).

31154. This is the second one?

Yes, that is like the second one that I signed.

31155. Can you tell me what the terms of your first indenture were; for how long was it, and how long were you to work for?

Two years and eight months.

31156. And what were you to get paid during that time?

Five shillings a week. We got 2 s. 6 d. a week for the first month.

31157. Then after that what did you get?

Five shillings a week.

31158. And how long did that last?

I could not say for certain; I am not sure whether for three months or six months; but I have an indenture in my pocket (*producing one*). It is not mine, but it is like it.

31159. You were apprenticed according to the same terms as these?

Yes.

31160. Do you know whether your second and first indentures were the same?

They were not the same in the wages; I am not sure about other things.

31161. The wages stated in this indenture are not the same rate of wages as you earned?

No.

31162. Then after the three and six months, what did you get?

Three shillings, because it was the slack season. But we had to make those wages before we got them; if we could not make the amount of work we could not get them.

31163. Just explain that a little more; how did they tell whether you had made the amount of work or not?

Every garment that we get we have a price for, and when we sign the agreement they give us half the price that they give the ordinary workers.

31164. How do they settle the price that the ordinary workers get?

I do not know.

31165. Then you get half the price the ordinary worker gets, and you have to make so many garments in the day?

They give you four sometimes, and they might give you six sometimes; it depends just how much work they have in; they reckon so much for the week hands.

31166. They give you what they take?

What you are supposed to make.

31167. Do you know beforehand what you are supposed to make?

No.

31168. So that the master could come to you and say you have not earned your 2 s. 6 d.?

Yes.

31169. Did that happen to you?

Not in the first few months when I was there; but when I came to the bigger rate I did not always earn it.

31170. Did you not always know how much you earned in the day?

They commenced giving us a ticket with what work we had made on it.

31171. But

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31171. But did not you know whether you had made enough to make the price?

Yes; with every piece of work we got a ticket, and then send it in at the week's end.

31172. Do you know how much you have earned, before you get the money?

We can reckon it up ourselves.

31173. Then what I understand you to mean is that you get paid these rates of wages you have mentioned, but that sometimes it is impossible to earn them?

Yes.

31174. Because they expect you to do more work than you can do?

Yes.

31175. During the time that you worked under your first indenture could you always get enough work to do, or were there days when you had not enough work to gain the money?

Yes, plenty of times we had not enough work.

31176. Then did you get paid anything?

Yes; but when we had no work they gave us a ticket for so many hours, and it was reckoned up how much wages we had made.

31177. Did you get paid for the time you were waiting?

Yes.

31178. You get 2 s. 6 d. a week for the first month you say?

Yes.

31179. That you always got?

Yes, we always got the 2 s. 6 d. for the first month.

31180. Then you got 5 s.

If we made it.

31181. Did it ever happen that you did not get that 5 s.?

Oh, yes, several times.

31182. Why was that? When you say "If we made it," do you mean that you sometimes had not got the work to do?

Sometimes we would get best work and sometimes only common work, and therefore we would not be able to make it sometimes.

31183. You had to go to the shop every day?

Yes.

31184. Every day in the week except Sunday?

Yes, except Sunday.

31185. And what were your hours?

In the busy season we work from half-past six to eight o'clock; in the slack season it is half-past eight to six.

31186. It might happen, I suppose, in the slack season that you would go there and there was nothing to do perhaps for a day or two in the week?

Yes.

31187. Would you still earn the 5 s. that week?

No.

31188. As I understand you, if you did not do a certain amount of work you did not get the 5 s.?

No.

31189. Supposing you did more than a certain amount of work would you get more than the 5 s.?

Yes.

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31190. Then what would be the most you would earn during that time when you were getting 5 s. ; did you ever get more than 5 s. ?

Yes, as much as 10 s., and that was working up till eight o'clock.

31191. In the busy time?

In the busy time.

31192. And during the first three or four months?

During the first 12 months.

31193. Then your first agreement was for two years and eight months?

Yes.

31194. Was that signed by your parents, or guardians, or anybody?

Signed by my guardians.

31195. And yourself?

Yes.

31196. Have you any premium to pay do you know, or anything of that sort?

No.

31197. What did you do after that first agreement was up?

We went on working and came out in the slack season, out of the first indenture ; and we went into the manager and asked him to give us piece-work prices as we were competent hands ; he said he could not consent to do that, he would see what he could do with us in a week or two ; so he called us one morning at the end of February, and then he came to us and said that we would have to sign another agreement.

31198. Did you do so?

Yes, we were making so little wages, we were put to it, and that we could go owhere else in the slack season.

31199. What were the terms of the second agreement ; the same as the first, only different in wages?

Yes.

31200. What was the agreement for wages ?

The first six months, 10 s., and then it came on to 12 s., it did not say how many months, and then 11 s., and then it came on to 14 s.

31201. And how long was the agreement for, another two years and eight months?

No, for another two years.

31202. What are piece-workers' prices?

Double the price of what we got. We cannot tell what the prices are because there are so many different garments.

31203. But you mean that they could earn twice as much as you could?

Yes.

31204. And what I understand you to say is that although you were a competent hand, at the end of your first apprenticeship your employer would not give you piece-work prices, and practically compelled you to sign another agreement in which you bound yourself to work for two years at this rate of wages you mentioned, which was only about half of what you could have earned if you had been piece-work prices?

Yes ; we thought he was going to put us on piece-work prices, and to let us get what we could earn ; but he put us on half the prices when we signed it.

31205. Did your guardians sign the second agreement too?

The person I was lodging with signed it.

31206. Did you work for that two years?

No.

31207. Why

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31207. Why not ?
I was not satisfied.

31208. What did you sign it for ; you could not help yourself at the time I suppose ?

No, I could not help myself at the time.

31209. What did you do, get work somewhere else ?

Yes, only I was summonsed, and the first case was dismissed, the costs on the master's side ; and then he summonsed us again for damages for breach of agreement.

31210. And what happened then ?

It was decided that we would have to pay the damages, 2 l. 15 s.

31211. You got work at some other place did you ?

Yes.

31212. And did you get piece-workers' prices there ?

Yes.

31213. Are you getting them now ?

Yes.

31214. What are you earning now ; is this the busy time ?

Yes, this is the busy time.

31215. What are you earning now ?

Seventeen shillings to 23 s. or 24 s. a week.

31216. And you get so much per garment ?

So much per garment.

31217. Can you tell the Committee how much a garment you get, the different prices ; have you got any list of them ?

No, I have not got a list.

31218. Is there a regular list made out ?

Yes, there is sometimes ; but there are so many different garments and differently made ; so much for the best, and so much for the common.

31219. When you get the work given to you, how do you know how much you are going to get for it ?

When they give the garments to us they tell us what kind they are.

31220. And what you are going to get ?

Yes.

31221. Do you work in a workshop ?

Yes.

31222. How many hands are there in the shop ?

About 30.

31223. All girls and women :

No ; men as well.

31224. All working in the same room ?

No ; there are only a few working on waterproofs.

31225. What part of the work do the men do ?

The master is a lawn tennis bootmaker. He has two rooms, one a water-proof room and one for lawn tennis boot making.

31226. How many work in the waterproof room ?

About 15.

31227. Men and women ?

There is only one man there

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31228. The rest all girls ?

Yes.

31229. Do you ever take your work home with you ?

No.

31230. When you go in the morning you get your work given out to you, and do you get paid for the work the same evening or once a week ?

Once a week.

31231. And you are given a ticket showing the amount of work you have done and the amount of pay you are to get ?

Yes.

31232. How long does your busy season last ?

About five or six months.

31233. In the slack season how many days a week will you get of work ?

Some weeks I might have two days and some weeks I might have four.

31234. Some weeks none at all ?

No, there is always a bit.

31235. And you get the same prices ; the same rate of wages then as in the busy season ?

Yes.

31236. But not so much to do ?

Not so much to do.

31237. Have you got to go down to the shop every morning in the slack season to see if there is any work ?

Yes.

31238. Have you to go there and wait ?

To wait and see if there is going to be work, and they tell us whether there is.

31239. Do you often have to wait any length of time and then get nothing to do ?

Several times we have had to wait.

31240. What I want to know is whether, when the times are slack, you are obliged to be in the shop a great deal so that you cannot get anything else anywhere else ?

I could not get anything anywhere else ; because when our place is slack they are all slack.

31241. So that it makes no difference to you if you are sitting at home or are sitting in the workshop ?

No.

31242. Do they ever fine you if you are not there in time ?

No, not where I am now.

31243. Did they ever fine you if you were not in time at other places ?

Yes.

31244. Was there a regular rate for fines ?

No, just according to the wages what was stated on the paper.

31245. What were you fined for, for being late ?

Yes, he would not allow us in if we were late before breakfast ; he would keep us out for two hours.

31246. But do I understand you that they would take something off your wages for being late ?

Yes.

31247. But

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GRACE GADDIS.

[Continued.]

31247. But not where you are working now ?
No.

31248. Were there many girls employed in the first place you worked in ?
Yes.

31249. And on the same kind of terms as you ?
Yes.

31250. Did many of them sign a second agreement like you ?
Yes, about 20 did.

31251. Did they all leave, too, when you did ?
No, only five of us ; they are giving those that are left the piece work prices now since we left.

31252. Are you earning now as high wages as ever you expect to earn ?
Yes.

31253. Lord *Monkswell*.] Have you anything to complain of with regard to the prices you get now ?
No.

31254. Is there any evasion of the list prices ; do you think that you are perfectly fairly treated ; do you consider that the list is adhered to ?
Yes.

31255. Do girls, as a rule, take home work ?
Not so far as I know.

31256. It is not a common thing for girls to take work home ?
No.

31257. *Chairman*.] How many shops have you worked in altogether ?
Two.

31258. Do they sell the goods themselves, or do they make them for somebody else, do you know ?
Make them for some one else.

31259. And, I suppose, they are very slack in the slack season ?
Yes.

31260. Do the masters of these two shops work themselves, or only look after the people that are working ?
Look after the people that are working.

31261. They do not do any work themselves ?
No.

31262. And your hours, you say, in the busy time were from half-past six to eight ?
Yes.

31263. And how long for meals ?
An hour for dinner, half an hour for breakfast, and half an hour for tea.

31264. Do you have your meals in the shop or go home ?
In the shop.

31265. Do you have to find them yourself, or do they find them for you ?
You find them yourself.

31266. When you were at the first place, did they give you your meals ?
No.

31267. Is there anything you would like to say to the Committee ?
No.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

31st May 1889.

KATE HUGHES, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

31268. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business ?
Waterproof making.

31269. How long have you been in the trade ?
Twelve months.

31270. Are you apprenticed ?
No.

31271. Never were ?
No.

31272. Are you working in a shop ?
Yes.

31273. How many hands are there in the shop ?
In the shop I was at there were five hands.

31274. But how about the shop you are in now ?
I could not tell how many there are ; there are two rooms.

31275. How many shops have you worked in ?
This is the second shop.

31276. And in the first one there were five hands ?
Yes.

31277. And there you had no agreement ?
No ; I was working with a hand that worked for the master.

31278. What do you mean by " the master " ?
The master of the place that gives the work out.

31279. The owner of the shop ?
Yes.

31280. Do you know who he worked for ?
He worked for a large firm.

31281. He got out work from this large firm and did it in his own place,
you mean ?
Yes.

31282. And then you worked for one of his hands ?
Yes.

31283. In order to learn the business ?
Yes.

31284. And who paid you ?
The hand paid me.

31285. What did you get ?
I got 5 s. 6 d. a week at the most.

31286. And what was the least ?
The least was 4 s.

31287. How long did that last ?
About two months.

31288. Did you have any agreement with the hand that employed you ?
No.

31289. How did she pay you, by the time ?
No, according to the work.

31290. This

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KATE HUGHES.

[*Continued.*]

31290. This hand, I suppose, was paid by piece work?
Yes.

31291. And you helped her?
It was a man; I helped him.

31292. Do you know what he earned?
It was all common work; he got 4 s. a dozen for the mantles.

31293. You do not know what he could earn?
No.

31294. And the masters employed altogether five hands?
It was five altogether.

31295. Had all these hands somebody helping them; had everybody a sort of an apprentice?

There were three masters; two had hands working for them; making five altogether.

31296. When you speak of "masters" there, you mean men working for the owner of the shop?
Yes.

31297. I understand you to mean that the owner of the shop had three men working for him?
Yes.

31298. And out of those three men two had hands under them?
Yes.

31299. That makes five altogether?
Yes.

31300. Was your master always at work?
Yes.

31301. You never worked without him?
Only one morning in the week.

31302. Were you working there during the slack time or the busy time?
I worked there for a month and got my 1 s. a week.

31303. When did you first go to work at all?
It was in July, and I worked for 1 s. a week.

31304. And how long did you stay there?
About one month.

31305. No kind of agreement?
No.

31306. What happened after that?
I went to another place.

31307. And what did you get there?
The first week I drew 4 s.

31308. Is that the place you have been telling us about?
Yes.

31309. Are both these masters Jews?
Yes.

31310. You have left that place now?
Yes.

31311. And gone somewhere else?
Yes.

31312. And to another Jew?
Yes.

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KATE HUGHES.

[Continued.]

31313. What are you earning now ?
I am getting 8 s.

31314. Is this the busy time ?
Yes.

31315. How long do you expect to remain there ?
I do not know.

31316. Do you consider that you know the trade now ?
Yes.

31317. But you are not getting paid piece worker's prices ?
No.

31318. Do you think you ought to be ?
Yes.

31319. And during the slack time what did you do ?
I was in service.

31320. Is there anything else you would like to say ?
No.

31321. Are there a good many in the shop you are working in now ?
Yes.

31322. A great many rooms ?
Yes.

31323. Does the owner of the shop work for anybody else ?
No ; it is his own firm.

31324. And he makes different kinds of things ?
Yes.

31325. Is there a foreman over the waterproof room ?
Yes, a foreman and manager.

31326. Does he pay you your wages, or who does ?
The manager pays us our wages.

31327. And how do they tell how much you have earned ?
They pay us weekly.

31328. Then, I suppose, you are expected to do a certain amount of work, are you not ?
Yes.

31329. Supposing you do not do that much ?
If you do not do it you will not get paid.

31330. And if you do do it, you will ?
Yes.

31331. Can you always do the amount of work that they expect you to do ?
Yes ; I work with a hand the same as in the last shop.

31332. Then does the hand pay you ?
No ; I go with the hand and get paid weekly by the master ; the hand has nothing to do with my wages ; it is the master that pays me.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

31st May 1889.

MR. JOSEPH GRONNOWSKY, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is
Examined, as follows :

31333. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your trade?
I am in the waterproof trade.

31334. And for how long ; since when ?
Since 1852.

31335. Do you work for another house, or do you sell your goods yourself ?
I do both.

31336. Do you mean that you have two separate departments ?
One department only ; I have not sufficient labour of my own ; I have only started business on my own account lately, and I only take work from one house, the very best goods, and make up their designs and samples for them, so as to keep my own people fully employed.

31337. But besides that you sell goods yourself ?
Of my own.

31338. Retail ?
No, wholesale.

31339. Do you employ any apprentices ?
No.

31340. Did you ever employ any ?
Yes ; I have had the management in some of the largest firms ; there we had apprentices, but I do not employ any myself.

31341. You never have employed any yourself ?
No.

31342. Have you any learners ; anybody to learn the trade ?
No.

31343. Do your hands have anybody to help them ?
No, I do not allow that. I teach the trade myself to those who are not competent enough ; I improve them myself, but I do not allow the hands to keep anybody under them.

31344. But you teach them yourself ?
Yes.

31345. Then you have got learners ?
I do not keep anybody that does not know anything about the trade. I may take an inferior hand and improve them ; somebody who has been in the trade before.

31346. But you do not allow your hands to employ anybody under them ?
No.

31347. I understand you do the best class of goods ?
The best class of goods. I also do some inferior, but very little of that.

31348. Is it the custom of the trade for some firms to employ a number of apprentices ?
Oh, yes.

31349. It is quite customary ?
It is quite customary ; in fact, the trade has progressed so these last eight or ten years that they cannot get sufficient labour done ; they are compelled to introduce apprentices.

31350. The trade is increasing, you say ?
Very much ; and even now I think it is only in its infancy.

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Mr. GRONNOWSKY.

[Continued.]

31351. Do you get better prices now than formerly?

No; the prices have got very much reduced of late years; and yet the people who are employed in it can earn wages quite as much, and more, than they used to do at better prices at that time.

31352. The prices you get have gone down, you say?

Yes.

31353. But the price of labour has gone up?

It has gone up.

31354. Has it gone up much in the last five or ten years?

I should think it has gone up 25 per cent.

31355. I presume you use machinery now?

To a certain extent.

31356. Do you mean that the cost of production is dearer than it used to be?

In some of the branches; that is to say, where machinery can be used for sewing, putting in button-holes, stitching, anything of that kind, the prices are not so high, but where we cannot employ machinery and hand labour is required the prices are gone up.

31357. What I understood you to say was, that you get less for your goods than you used to get, but you have to pay more for the labour?

Yes, just so.

31358. I want to know whether the introduction of machinery has not enabled you to produce your goods cheaper than you did?

Part of it; part of the labour we have to pay higher prices for.

31359. Then am I to understand that you are making a less profit than you used?

We are making a less profit, but there is a greater demand for the goods, consequently it is the quantity that helps to pay; but taking every article separately, it is less profitable.

31360. How are the goods generally made up mostly made up on the premises of the large houses, or do they get their work done for them?

Mostly on the premises of the large houses; there are a few that put work out, but that is only at times when they have to put on extra labour.

31361. How many of these persons are there in Manchester who take work out?

I should not say above eight or ten.

31362. You say the large firms only put out the work when they are very much pressed?

Yes.

31363. What do these eight or ten do when they have no work?

They are obliged to make the most of it when they have plenty of work, and to work very long hours, and make as much as they can, for the reason that they have to keep up the rent of their work-places all the year round, rent and taxes; consequently they have to work very long hours in the busy time to make enough to do that.

31364. Is it customary for these middlemen to allow their hands to have assistants?

Yes, it is the general thing.

31365. Do you think that has tended to lower wages; these learners or apprentices, do they keep down the wages?

Where they can they try it on. I think that those who are employed in the trade know so much about the trade, what it pays and ought to pay, that they will not allow themselves to be treated in that way.

31366. You

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Mr. GRONNOWSKY.

[Continued.]

31366. You mean that you think the workers can take care of themselves?
Yes.

31367. Do you think that the demand for labour is greater than the supply?
Yes, in certain times of the year. The busy time will commence now in another fortnight, or a month at the latest, and will last up to the middle of November; there would be enough employment then for another thousand in the trade if they had to work night and day; after that they get slack from the end of November to the middle or end of February. Of course there is always more or less a little employment for them.

31368. Are you a native of this country?
I have been here since 1851.

31369. Where did you come from?
Poland.

31370. Russian Poland?
Russian Poland.

31371. Are there more foreigners in Manchester now than formerly, do you think?

I have no idea; I mix very little with them; I have been always in the habit of mixing among the Englishmen.

31372. You talk about these middlemen working very long hours in the season; what do you mean by very long hours; what would their hours be?

Sometimes, I should think, they work 20 hours out of the 24; I have known cases myself where they commence at five or six in the morning and would be working till twelve at night; ten at night is a common thing.

31373. Are there girls employed in those places?
No, that only applies to men.

31374. The girls work during the regular hours?

The regular hours, as far as I know. I have had as many as 300 and 400 workpeople in places where I have had the management, and to the best of my knowledge I do not know that I ever allowed any women to work after hours.

31375. But I mean in the large factories?

In the large factories, or in the trade, as a rule, they do not allow the women to work in that way only when it is very pressing indeed.

31376. And do they work these long hours in the factories?

No, they work from six to six, and in the busy time, from six to eight, except in a very exceptional case.

31377. But it is the smaller men that work so late?

It is the smaller men that work so late; but these men are not recognised as efficient men in the trade; they are only looked upon as helpers when they are required.

31378. Do you pay your hands by piece-work?
I pay my hands by piece-work.

31379. Is there any regular statement of prices, any log, as in the tailoring trade?

No, we have no log whatever; we are guided by the market; if one master pays a certain price for a certain article it soon gets circulated, and it is a pretty near guide.

31380. Then your prices are continually changing?
Changing according to style.

31381. How do your hands know what they are going to get?

An article is required; the employer, or rather his manager or foreman, who is generally a practical man, picks out a competent hand to make a sample. Whatever the article may be, notice is taken how many hours that sample takes to make, and if a man makes it he is paid at the rate of 6*d.* or 7*d.* per hour.

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[*Continued.*]

An inferior article, such as a woman could make, is calculated at 3 *d.* or 4 *d.* per hour, so the first article that would take eight hours would be 4 *s.* to 4 *s.* 6 *d.* The second article would be 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* When a sample takes eight hours, when a hand gets used to it after a month, the price of that article gets reduced 25 per cent. This is generally the way we get at the market prices.

31382. Have you got any list of prices with you that you can give the Committee?

No; but I can give by heart how the prices range. There is the common Princess mantle, that is the rage now in the market; there is a great consumption for that article; the lowest price that is paid now in the market is 4½ *d.*, and they range according to the trade; if a man is more particular than another he pays as much as 6 *d.* or 7 *d.* for the same article. I, myself, pay 6 *d.*, because I am more particular about the work. Then the next quality, although the article is the same shape and the same style, it is better quality; one would be cotton, the other wool or silk, or a mixture; I pay 6 *d.*, 10 *d.*, 11 *d.*, 1 *s.*, and 1 *s.* 1 *d.*

31383. And that would be the best quality work; the best goods?

For a silk mantle of the same description they pay as much as 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, 1 *s.* 9 *d.*, and 2 *s.*, only they are more particular.

31384. You employ men and women, I suppose?

Yes.

31385. What do the men earn?

My men, if they are fully employed, can make from 40 *s.* to 50 *s.* a week.

31386. And the female hands; take a competent female hand?

A competent female hand can make from 18 *s.* to 25 *s.* and 27 *s.*, if she is fully employed.

31387. And the employment is full for how many months in the year would you say?

I should say full employment commences from June to about the middle of November; then it begins to slacken.

31388. Take it on an average, how many days' work a week all the year round do they make; three?

More than that.

31389. Four?

Four, I should think. And I may mention that my people are only working from eight to seven, and they get an hour out of that for dinner.

31390. Do you work overtime?

Only under pressure.

31391. Do you generally work your legal overtime?

Yes; that is, if we cannot get more hands we are compelled to work longer time, but it is a matter of more hands; if I can get them, I do not like long hours.

31392. Do you mean that the work is better done if they are not working overtime?

Yes, I have found that. I find from practical experience that we can turn out almost the same quantity of work in short hours as we can in long hours, because the people are in a better condition at the work; they are healthier, and I get a better class of people to work; it is only inferior people that are compelled to work long hours.

31393. Before you set up business yourself you were a manager in large firms, I understand you to say?

Yes, in the largest firm in England.

31394. How

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Mr. GRONNOWSKY.

[Continued.]

31394. How was the business conducted ; did you have the control of the waterproof department ?

Of the garment department.

31395. Did you have the settlement of the prices ?

Yes, I had to estimate the designs and every invention.

31396. Were you paid a regular salary ?

A regular salary.

31397. Did you have any interest in the business ?

No ; I was interested deeply in it ; too anxiously, perhaps.

31398. I mean, had you any pecuniary interest in it.

No.

31399. Did you have to settle the prices ?

Everything.

31400. Did you pay the hands ?

The clerks paid the hands, but it was all under my supervision.

31401. You were responsible ?

Yes.

31402. And that is the way the business is generally carried on ?

In the respectable places, mostly.

31403. But are there any places that are not respectable ?

It is only the small chamber masters that have a system in the busy time, that is a good deal to be complained of.

31404. What is their system ?

That is that they pack them too closely in their room ; they put as many people as they can possibly pack into it, and they work them too hard, and the work does not turn out nice ; and, as far as my opinion goes, I do not think that it does any good to the trade in general ; I believe it does a deal of injury ; the workmanship is turned out very inferior and the consumers do not get satisfaction.

31405. Are most of your hands Jews or Gentiles ?

Gentiles ; I only have four Jews.

31406. How do you manage about the Saturday and Sunday ?

We work on Saturday ; I do not observe the Jewish religion.

31407. In this large place to which you have referred, were there Jews and Gentiles ?

In every place nearly ; they keep them together.

31408. Do they work comfortably together ?

Yes ; I think Jews have instigated a feeling whereby Gentiles can have more wages. What I mean is that the Jews, as a body, are very industrious and sober, and keep to their work, and earn plenty of money, and create a sort of stimulus to others to imitate them. I have men who are working for me who were under me as apprentices six or seven years ago, and I do not think there are any better men in the trade ; and I think it is because they work side by side with the Jews. Gentiles, as a rule, are slow in turning out their work, but these men have had such a stimulus from the example of the Jews, and they make great speed over the work, and get good wages.

31409. Did you hear the evidence given by the first witness in this waterproof trade,—Grace Gaddis ?

I did.

31410. Is a case of that kind common in the business ?

It is not fair evidence ; I think what she stated, as far as her knowledge goes, no doubt is correct, but it is not a fair representation of the case.

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Mr. GRONNOWSKY.

[Continued.]

31411. Do you know the place ?

I know the place where she comes from, and, in fact, I may say that I helped to start that very firm ; it is a man that has only started two months ; he knows nothing about the trade practically ; therefore it is not a fair average ; in fact I selected the patterns for this man when he started.

31412. The idea which that witness conveyed to the Committee was that five of these girls were practically compelled to sign an agreement, on pain of dismissal, and that they were competent to earn better wages ; but they were induced to take a lower rate than they ought to have had ?

It is not so ; that is a misrepresentation altogether. I had some hundreds of cases under me where indentures were drawn up, and I had them printed, and therefore I am able to say that it is not the case ; but the master signs and keeps to his agreement.

31413. Is there anything further you wish to say to the Committee ?

I have nothing to say ; I should only like to suggest, if there was a possibility, to shorten the hours in some of these small workrooms ; if some plan could be devised to do that, it would be a good thing.

31414. You think they ought to be under the regulations that apply to you ?

Yes.

31415. Would not that practically do away with them altogether ; would it not have that effect ?

No.

31416. You have told the Committee that these people have to work excessive hours during half the year in order to live the other half ?

Yes.

31417. Then if you do not allow them to work those excessive hours they cannot live the other half of the year ?

They are practically only agents.

31418. Would not shortening the hours of labour practically abolish them altogether ?

In some cases it would. I know a man who was a baker by trade, and came into the business, and he had, in slack time, to go back to his own trade ; and it is better for them to do that.

31419. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Does waterproofing work require much plant ?

Yes ; if it is carried on in a respectable way a man who took work home could not fit up his workshop under 40 l or 50 l. ; to carry it on in a clean and decent style it would require some hundreds of pounds.

31420. And even a small man must lay out 50 l. ?

I have known cases where 15 l. would fit up their place, because they have no more room than for just two or three tables ?

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ISIDOR FRANKENBURG, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

31421. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business ?

India-rubber and Leather goods Manufacturer.

31422. Do you manufacture altogether on your own premises ?

Yes.

31423. You do not employ any outworkers ?

No outworkers at all.

31424. Is

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Mr. FRANKENBURG.

[Continued.]

31424. Is that the general custom in the trade ?
Pretty nearly.

31425. How long have you been in this business ?
Twenty-one years.

31426. It is increasing very much, is it not ?
Yes.

31427. How many hands do you employ ?
From 700 to 750.

31428. Where is your place of business ?
In Salford, Manchester, within five minutes of the Manchester Exchange.

31429. Do you sell your own goods or make for others who sell them ?
We sell them.

31430. In your trade you have a busy time of about six months, and a slack time of about six months ?

About that ; but with me it is a little different ; we are pretty busy the whole year on account of the shipping trade. If we are slack for England we may be busy for Australia or America, and so on.

31431. Do you make largely for export ?
Yes.

31432. You keep about the same number of people employed all the year round ?

There may be 100 less at one time than another, it may be 650 at one time and 750 at another.

31433. How do you pay your hands, by piece-work ?

We have several departments, but in the waterproof garment trade we pay by piece-work.

31434. How many hands have you in that branch ?
About 400.

31435. Is there any regular statement of prices in that branch ?

We generally have our own standard of prices by which the girls can earn a certain amount of money. I have the list here showing what they earn.

31436. Made up out of your books ?

Yes ; I have made it out for about 50 girls. That is taken for this last month, not the busy time of the year.

31437. Do you employ mostly males or females ?

The Christian people are nearly all females ; we employ some Jews as well.

31438. And the men ?

The men in the waterproof trade are chiefly Jewish people. This statement (*producing it*) shows what 50 girls have earned in the last four weeks.

31439. These are all girls ?

They are all girls ; they earn from 10 s. to about 23 s.

31440. Perhaps you will hand that statement in ?

I can leave it with pleasure ; it gives you a rough average.

31441. These would be skilled hands ?

All these girls have been above 12 months in my place (*the statement is handed in*).

31442. How do they learn the trade ?

They have all learnt it in my own establishment. For instance, we take an apprentice, and put her with an experienced girl for a month ; we pay that experienced girl about 2 s. 6 d., and give her the services of the apprentice free of charge for the month ; after the month we put her with one of the foremen, and put her on piecework on her own account ; we start her with the very lowest

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Mr. FRANKENBURG.

[Continued.]

quality, and for the first few weeks we put her on the worst paying article, so that if she spoil the work the loss would not be great.

31443. I understood, at first, you put her in charge of a hand and pay that hand 2 s. 6 d. to teach her?

Yes, and she also has the benefit of the month's services, the little services the girl can do.

31444. And then you put the girl after a month on work on her own account?

Yes.

31445. And what would she be able to earn for the first six months or so?

Perhaps from 5 s. to 10 s. I have seen a girl after she has been a month on her own account earning 10 s. or 11 s.; that is the exception; but 5 s., 6 s., or 7 s. is quite a common thing for a girl to earn.

31446. And after the first six months what would she be able to earn?

If the class of girl is fairly clever we give her a class of work at once which pays better.

31447. And who has to decide the rate of pay?

Two or three of my foremen meet together and just place it before me or my manager; in some cases we would test how much she could do a week, something like that.

31448. The foremen, I presume, have an idea what amount of work ought to be done in a certain time?

Yes, we have a standard price; but it depends on the fashion. Next year the fashion will differ a little. If it is a commoner article we will take a little off; if it is a better article, we put a little on; something like that.

31449. And what are your regular hours?

From six to six, that is to say really 57½ hours, as much as the Factory Act allow us. But we really only work 54 hours; that is we give them half-an-hour in the morning; they should be in at six o'clock, but we allow the girls to come in at half-past six, and as a rule they take advantage of that half hour.

31450. Do you, as a rule, work over-time at all?

Last year, I think, we worked 30 evenings about an hour and a half over-time in accordance with the Factory Act, of course; but those are very exceptional cases; it was a very busy season last year.

31351. And you employ no middlemen to do any work for you?

No, we do not employ middlemen. I was always against it on account of the long hours.

31452. Are you a member of the Jewish Board of Guardians?

I am.

31453. Do you pay all the hands or do the foremen have the paying of them?

They are paid by two or three cashiers.

31454. How are they paid; do they get a ticket at the end of the week, or what is the system?

The work is booked. If a girl comes for work they book her three or four garments, and they put the price on, say 6 d. each, and so on. We pay on the Saturday; on Friday we add up these books, and pay on Saturday.

31455. Is the number of foreign immigrants increasing largely?

According to the statistics of the Jewish Board of Guardians they seem to be decreasing; because, as a rule, the immigrants, the first thing after they arrive, pay us a visit at the board of guardians, and I find that in the tailoring and boot and shoe trade, capmakers, waterproof-makers, hawkers, and glaziers, during this last year 1888-89, we only had 187 cases, against 257 the previous year; so I do not believe that there is any increase of that immigration; invariably they come to the board of guardians.

31456. Have

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31456. Have many of them left for Leeds or other places?

No. My private opinion is that after they have been with us a few months they go further on; they go to America or Australia.

31457. Are the prices increasing or decreasing in the waterproof trade?

I think it is about the same; we pay, perhaps, a little more.

31458. Are you getting the same prices?

We pay a little more, 5 per cent. or 10 per cent.

31459. Is the selling price the same?

Yes, very nearly the same; articles of different shapes and different patterns are made.

31460. I suppose you produce cheaper now than formerly, by reason of the use of machinery?

Of course I use a great deal of machinery in my place; but very little machinery in making the garment, except such as button-hole stitches.

31461. These learners you take on, I suppose, are not indentured to you?

For the last two or three years we have not bound them; we always trusted to them; in fact, I should still trust to the people; I do not believe in indentures. But there are a lot of these little men, very unprincipled men, that try to entice them away; so this year we have secured ourselves by making an agreement for 21 months, that is for two seasons; we bound them last February up to November in next year.

31462. What would be the terms of the indenture?

We teach them for nothing; in fact, on the contrary, we pay others for teaching them.

31463. For a month?

For a month; and afterwards we put them on piece-work, and they can earn as much as they like; but at the same time there is a clause in the agreement that we are bound to give them so much work; but they generally earn double that amount. For instance, in the case of the girl that we bind ourselves to give 8s. a week to for the 21 months, we have seen her earning 16s. or 18s. a week. I will give justice to my people, and particularly to the English people; and I must say that we work very well together. They would not leave me if it were not for a few people that entice them away; they are very much attached to the place; for instance, in some cases I have found two brothers or two sisters, or a mother and father, working, perhaps, each in a different department.

31464. I suppose you do not know anything about the way in which the work is carried on in these smaller places?

I do a great deal; I have made it my business to inquire. Being a member of the Jewish Board of Guardians, I see these people coming for relief; and also I have knowledge on the subject through other channels.

31465. Perhaps you will give us some information on the point?

The whole mischief as regards sweating (and that is what, as I understand, your Lordships are inquiring about) is really limited very much, I should say, to ten people at the outside. Some of them are little makers, and some are middlemen. The mischief that they do is that they work such very unreasonable hours. It is quite a common thing for them to start at six or seven in the morning and work till 12 at night; that is really the whole mischief. Of course, if after that statement you like me to make a few suggestions I shall be very glad to give you my own experience.

31466. Certainly; anything you would like to say we shall be very glad to hear?

What I would suggest is that the inspectors of the health committee should work together with the factory inspectors, and that they both should deal with the sweaters; that they both should have power over them. And another important thing is that each workshop should be registered, and should have a

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notice on the door stating the measurement of the room and the number of workers allowed. My reason for suggesting that is this: I want that each worker in that room should know that the measurement of the room is so much, and that so many people only are allowed in that room. Then if a man were to fall out with the master he would certainly go to the factory inspector and say, "The law only allows eight people in that room, and there are ten workers;" and the factory inspector could at once look after them. That is one of the greatest evils; and of course if a room is insufficiently ventilated extra room should be allowed to each worker. Of course I should not register any place with insufficient closet accommodation, lavatories, and such like, they should not be registered at all.

31467. They should not be allowed to work in them?

They should not be allowed to work in them.

31468. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You think, as I gather from you, that the cubic capacity of the room should not be a fixed quantity, but should be variable?

A fixed minimum under the same system as at present. For instance, in my own factory we know that each room measures so many cubic feet, and we will not allow above so many people in it. But of course the people do not understand it. I want that people should know that in this room 40 or 50 people, as the case may be, are allowed to work, and no more.

31469. What I wanted to know was whether I understood correctly that supposing for instance 500 cubic feet was the amount allowed for an ordinary room for each person the inspector might come and say, "You have got this room so badly ventilated that you must have 700 cubic feet"?

Certainly; "or else alter the ventilation."

31470. That is what you meant, was it?

Exactly, that is what I mean; and that is the only evil; and this is an evil which you can prevent. I should also like to mention that the waterproof garment as regards the labour is drifting gradually into the hands of English girls; and in fact I may say, that I myself may take credit for it; I started it; I was the first Jewish employer that employed English girls to a great extent; and of course all these girls are trained by Jewish foremen, they have no objection to do that.

31471. Do you work on Sunday; is the factory open?

No, my factory is closed on Sunday, but open on Saturday; they are nearly all Christian people.

31472. Then how do you manage if it is open on Saturday, and there are Jews employed?

I have a separate workshop for the Jewish people. I have about 80 or 90 Jewish people; and I keep a separate workshop, a foreman, and clerk for them, and all they have to do is to obey the Factory Act.

31473. But you spoke of the Christian girls working under the Jewish foremen; how do you manage about those Jewish foremen on the Saturday?

They either abstain on the Saturday altogether, or else some of them come in on the Saturday; there are very few of them.

31474. Then on Sunday the place is closed with the exception of the Jewish people?

I have two factories and one shop. The two factories are entirely closed on Sunday but I have a special workshop for Jewish people only, and that is open then.

31475. Are the hands allowed to take work home?

No; I have really very little to do with the special workshop, except that I do pay them. The reason I have this workshop is to prevent the sweating system; so that they may be under my power and under the Factory Act, that is my idea.

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31476. To have the work done on your own premises?
Yes, otherwise we should have to send this work out.

31477. Can you explain what was said a little while ago by one of the witnesses? It seems that some of the larger houses put out a certain portion of their work which is done for these sweaters, that the sweaters employ these hands, and that these hands in their turn employ girls under them; is that the general system?

There is very little of it. I should put down all the sweaters in Manchester and Salford at 100 to 150. I made it my business carefully to make a calculation.

31478. Is there anything else you wish to say?

I may say that, as a Board of Guardians, we take special care that we never give any relief unless we find that the houses are kept clean. I think a remark was made last week by one of the Manchester inspectors which was a little exaggerated; he said that the Jewish poor people are very dirty.

31479. I think he said that, in his opinion, the shops were not kept quite so clean as the Christian shops?

There are very few amongst the Christians that have shops. These persons are little men; that is really the explanation of the whole thing; they work hard; they are always at it; and, therefore, they cannot keep themselves quite so clean. I think that, with regard to their private residences (indeed, I have reason to know it, because I visit them), there is very little choice between the Jewish poor and the Christian poor; and, if you take the state of their houses on the Sabbath, I think the Jewish poor will gain the day; they are very clean and neat then.

31480. Do you employ any Christian male hands then?

Yes; I employ nearly 600 to 700 Christians and 80 Jewish people altogether. We use a lot of machinery, and require all that sort of men. We manufacture waterproof cloth for the garments, and that is entirely a man's work.

31481. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*. You have hardly any Jewish women?
A few; very few indeed.

31482. *Chairman*.] Is there anything else you have to suggest?

No; I have nothing to suggest further.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. WILLIAM JAMES WALKER, is called in; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows:

31483. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your business?

Foreign merchant; a Ceylon and South African merchant.

31484. In Bishopsgate-street, I believe?

Yes.

31485. I think you are interested in the Working Women's Co-operative Association?

I am; I am one of the directors.

31486. We had some evidence some time ago about that connected with the factory department of the association; did you read the evidence?

I did; I read it all.

31487. Have you anything to say about it?

Yes; I should like to correct two points in it. Mr. Munro gave evidence on the subject, and I think in the answer he gave to Question No. 1379, of the 20th of April 1888, it would be conveyed that we had two factories. He says there, "The other factory is built out on what was a garden behind a dwelling-house in Walden-street, Philpot-street; the previous factory is in Old

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Ford." Now, Mr. Peek, who is one of our directors, felt rather annoyed at that, because our present undertaking has nothing to do with the Old Ford one at all; it is an entirely new enterprise. Personally, I knew nothing of the Old Ford one. That is one correction. Then, taking Question No. 1396, on the 24th April. The idea conveyed by Mr. Munro's answer to that question was that Mr. Francis Peek is solely at the bottom of this new movement, and that it is part of an old movement. Now, Mr. Peek is one of the directors of the concern, and has taken a great interest in it; but there are other gentlemen co-operating with him. It is really a limited liability company to test the question; we claim no more than that we are making an experiment.

31488. Corrections of that kind are scarcely worth going into, perhaps?

Then he says, in another answer, that the company has 3,000 *l.* subscribed, whereas we really have only 1,200 *l.* subscribed. There are such corrections as that to be made in his evidence; but perhaps you do not think it necessary to go into them.

31489. It is scarcely necessary; we would sooner hear from you as to the shirt department; have you a special department for the shirt-making?

We have. Would it be convenient to you that I should make a little statement as to how I became acquainted with it, so as to show you what evidence I can give, and to enable you to judge whether it is reliable or not?

31490. If you please?

About 20 months ago I went down to Poplar with no special idea of what I was going to do, except to visit the poor. I heard so much about distress in the East-end that I thought I would investigate for myself. I went from house to house, and I found out, after some weeks of visitation (I do not say visitation day after day, but occasionally, as I could give the time), that the want of work was not the great evil, but that the wages paid for the work were below living point. I refer specially to the shirt work. Having found that out I made it my special study to look into the condition of the shirt-workers of East London, and, in conjunction with a dissenting clergyman, the Rev. James Chadburn, of Poplar, collected 30 women in the hall there; this was about the 19th December 1887, about a year and a-half ago. We wanted to experiment, and find out whether, if we paid these women the full wage that we got from the manufacturer without any middleman intervening they could live off it. That was our experiment.

31491. You say if you paid "the full wage" that you got from the manufacturer; what do you mean?

To save time, I did not, in my answer, enter into the details of the experiment; but I may state now, that I got a friendly manufacturer to engage to give me so many dozen shirts a week, or as many as I might require, to give to these women to work upon, and I said, "You pay me exactly the same price as you pay the sweater at present." "I will," he said. I said, "Look upon me as a sweater; I want to make an experiment, and I will pay the whole of the wage to the women." I wanted to see if there was anything in the cry that the sweater prevented them from making a living.

31492. Did you give them the whole sum without making any deduction for rent?

Without any deduction for rent. I paid all of what you may call the intervening expenses. I was superintending. It cost me 57 *l.* in five months. I wanted to see whether, if they got the full wage, they could live off it. The result was, that I found that the machinists, if they were clever, might make a living (I am speaking I may say just now of the common class of shirt; what is termed the unskilled labour in the trade), that they might earn 10 *s.*, 12 *s.*, or even 15 *s.* a-week if they were very clever and got the full wage; but that it was utterly impossible for the finishers, that is the hand-sewers who put on the buttons and make the button-holes, to make a living even though they got the full wage that the manufacturer paid. Then I leave your Lordships to judge what must be the state of things when a middleman intervenes and takes away something of that almost impossible living wage from these people, as he undoubtedly does. I found in going to the homes that the finishers were
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getting 3 *d.* a dozen for finishing shirts. I had that amply corroborated; I had case after case where it was confirmed, and I had it from the manufacturer himself that they were getting 3 *d.* a-dozen from the middleman or sweater for finishing common shirts. I went to my manufacturing friend, and he said to me: "It is a cruel shame; we pay 6 *d.* and even 7 *d.* for the very same shirt being finished." That is a large margin to take from these poor tailors; the wages are bad at the best; for when we gave them that 6 *d.* or 7 *d.* in our hall it was looked upon as an extreme wage; they were only able to make 4 *s.* 9 *d.* to 6 *s.*; and after deducting one-half for the sweater, you have a result of 3 *s.* or 3 *s.* 6 *d.*

31493. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Have you any idea what per-centage the 50 *l.* odd you mentioned would be on the amount, roughly, I mean; do you suppose it would be 10 per cent., or 20 per cent., or 5 per cent?

I would like to be guarded in my answer to that question for this reason: that it embodied much more than mere expenses of transit of the shirts to and fro to the hall. I gave them cups of coffee, free of charge, and bread and butter, and that kind of thing; benevolence entered into the the enterprise a good deal.

31494. *Chairman.*] What was your next move?

The next step was that, having proved that the machinists might live if they got the full wage, I saw a letter in the "Times" from Mr. Francis Peek asking for co-operation in forming a limited liability company to test the question of the shirt-makers and the tailors in the East-end of London. I at once answered his letter, and joined him, and brought the shirt-workers from this hall at Poplar up to Walden-street, where Mr. Peek and others had formed this company. Then we had a separate department for the tailoresses in Walden-street, and for the shirt-workers; the two things were quite separate, and the books were kept separate. We wanted to see which would pay. We have now been established over a year, and our first balance-sheet has been brought out. The results are that the tailoresses can make a fair wage, by paying them, not all we get from the manufacturer, but what remains after deducting sufficient for our working factory expenses. I am now talking not of a benevolent enterprise, but a real commercial enterprise that we are trying as a test. We have deducted something there for working expenses, and after doing that the tailoresses can make enough to live upon; but, just as I expected, the shirt workers show a loss. I merely incidentally mention the tailoresses, because I do not know so much about them; but as to the shirt-workers, I know thoroughly the condition of the trade. They show a loss, because we deducted something for working expenses, and the wage is so low that the directors and manager of the works saw that we could not deduct enough to meet expenses. So there is a loss in our balance sheet from the shirt factory. There is a small profit from the tailoresses. Perhaps having said so much, I might show you a little more in detail; the condition of some of the workers.

31495. Before you leave that, I will put a question. You spoke about this company not being a benevolent association, but conducted on commercial principles; but I understand that you make no profit, nor do you take any interest on your outlay for the company?

The directors all being men of some little means, they said at the start of this that they would not take interest on their capital, and that so far philanthropy should enter into the scheme, that they would lend this money for an experiment, so to speak, but that in every other respect it would be business. For instance, we pay our manager 200 *l.* year, and a very clever man he is.

31496. And you pay the rent of the building?

And we pay the rent of the building. We have altered it considerably at an expense of 300 *l.*, and given them a light airy factory. This much we can claim, that we have given them a factory where they work under improved sanitary conditions. But your Lordship is quite right, we do not take any dividend on our money. If 200 *l.* say, had been our profit at the end of the

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year, we should have put that aside as a rest fund, or reserve fund, until we saw our way to purchase shares for the women out of their own profits so to speak; we want them to work it gradually themselves.

31497. You pay the same rate of wages; as high a rate of wage as the price you get from the manufacturer, without any deduction for profits?

Not exactly; but we have ascertained that we pay 25 per cent. more than the sweaters would pay.

31498. And consequently, in those circumstances, you say that the tailoresses can make a living but that the shirt-makers cannot?

That is so; and I also assert that even if the shirt-makers were paid every penny that the manufacturer gives they could not live off it.

31499. You were going on to say something about the condition of the people?

Having ascertained that the wage is at what might be termed below living point, I made some further visits to find out how the women live; because after all, that is what we want to know. If the wage is below living point, how do they live; and I called on an intelligent woman who worked in Poplar for a sweater (for a middleman or sweater, not for a manufacturer), and I said to her: "Now you seem a very respectable woman, and your children are well clothed, and you live in a decent house; but you cannot do all this on the 5 s. or 6 s. a week that you can knock out through doing this weary shirt work." "No," she said, "I cannot; you see my husband brings in the rest; I merely do this as an extra." I said, "Exactly; that is what I want to get at; to you it is something like a lady embroidering slippers; it is a pastime, more or less, in between attending to the children or meals; it is not the serious business of your life; you have not, in other words, to live off it." "No," she said, "I have not." "Now," I said, "Will you tell me what becomes of your next-door neighbour; actually next door." I said, "There is a poor girl working in this way, and who has to meet every expense in her life from the wage that she gets; will you tell me what becomes of her; she has no husband to bring in something to supplement her income; then what becomes of her?" She said, "I do not know;" and I pressed home the point; I said, "I want you to answer this because you are an intelligent woman; what is the result; can she live?" "Can she live?" "No, Sir," she said, "she cannot live." "Can she get any other kind of work?" "No." I said, "You know the result." "I can guess," she said. Then I leave your Lordships to guess as to what would be the result; she sells the only other thing she has to sell. And that is very common indeed; that they are pressed on to that step through this shamefully low wage that is paid by the sweater.

31500. You believe that to be common?

I believe that to be common. I could not bring actual proof, because it is a thing that no one would confess to; all those who have investigated this matter, can only sadly guess at it.

31501. When you say the low prices paid by the sweater, you have told us that even if there were no sweater the price paid by the manufacturer to the sweater would not enable them to live?

Not in the case of a hand-sewer; there is a distinction; the machinists may live if they are clever.

31502. How would you propose to get over that difficulty. Even if the middleman intercepting a part of the wage were done away with, you are still face to face with the insufficiency of the price given by the manufacturer?

I know the remedy, but I fear to suggest it; because you may know that the remedy is so drastic that you would not like to adopt it.

31503. What is it?

It would be the forbidding of all work in homes. That is where the sweater thrives, as you can see; he gets the poor separate, and makes his own terms with them alone; it is the home work that does it; and, speaking broadly, all finishing is done at home, while the machining is done very often in factories.

31504. Then

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31504. Then to come back to the sweater, I was asking you how you deal with the difficulty caused by the insufficiency of the price paid by the manufacturer, before the sweater has taken any of it?

Supposing you were to forbid work at home, and to collect these finishers into factories, then they would have power to unite and get the wage up. The fact is, that the manufacturer has dropped it down to so low a point that the sweater is not the only enemy; I do not blame either party; it may be the law of supply and demand; I can only state the fact, that he has dropped the wage down to such a point amongst the finishers that they would have to strike on it, or do something to get the wage up to a point at which to live. Even if the sweater were away they cannot do that, as long as they are working in their home.

31505. Then your suggestion of a remedy is that they should be collected in factories or large shops?

In factories.

31506. And how would that affect the case of a woman like the one you just now mentioned, who had some shirt finishing in order to earn some little extra money, being supported by her husband?

It would mean that she would not do that work, she would not get it to do. It would undoubtedly make it very hard in some cases; but I do not think it would be so hard as the fact that this woman is competing with her poor sister who has to live off the wage. The fact that these women are competing amongst themselves is the evil. I went back and traced it till I found that that was the real evil.

31507. Practically, it would put out of work all women who have families of young children, would it not?

Yes, I should say it would.

31508. In your opinion, are there not many such cases where the whole family is at any rate partially supported, and perhaps entirely supported at certain times of the year by the labour of the wife when the husband is unable to obtain work?

That is quite correct: sometimes the family is entirely supported by her labour; and, therefore, you remember I said that I feared to suggest the remedy. It is a remedy, but just one of those that would never be adopted. And perhaps there is something more practical; I would suggest, at any rate, that the sweaters be registered. In the meantime they go about the East-end of London, and do almost what they like with their victims; no one can trace them, almost; it was with the greatest difficulty that I traced some; and when you do trace them the women will not give evidence of any kind because they are terror-struck. I ought to have had some here to corroborate my evidence, but they would not dare to tell your Lordships here what they told me in their homes. The sweater is a law entirely to himself. One woman I came across says she has not got paid for work done three years ago, on some trivial pretext which the sweater made. Another instance is that mentioned by Mr. Chadburn, who has known the East-end for 17 years, where a sweater deducted a whole week's work of a woman because she was 10 minutes late with the work, and so aggravated were the people all round Poplar that they smashed his windows; showing the state of things that exists between the sweater and the people.

31509. These shirts you speak of are the commoner kind?

They are entirely the commoner kind.

31510. Where are the places of business of the manufacturers of these inferior shirts?

As a rule, in the City.

31511. Then, supposing you could eliminate the sweater, how would the workers in Poplar get their work?

I think I can best answer that by saying that two houses in the City have factories there, whereby in the East-end they give the work direct to the women. The finishers come and take it home, and the machinists come and work in their

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factory. I believe that answers well. That, after all, is the best remedy that can be suggested; that the manufacturer takes charge of his own workers; you can easily see that then the evils would be remedied if that were the case. It is the allowing of the middleman to come in between the manufacturer and the worker that is the evil.

31512. Do you see any way in which the middleman, assuming him to be an evil, can be abolished?

Either by the union of the workers, or by, I was going to say, the common sense; perhaps it might be better to say the kind-heartedness, of the houses in the City, seeing that it is their duty to think of their workers a little in the matter. The middleman at present is a necessity; he is not always to be blamed, in many cases he is kind to the workers; there are bad and good ones; but he has too much power, and has taken advantage of it in many cruel instances.

31513. Do you think it would be sufficient if these places, the workshops, were registered, and even subject to the Factory Act?

I think it would remedy matters very largely indeed.

31514. Have you anything to say as to the hours these people work?

I asked that woman in her house how long she worked, and she really did not know very well, because she made no account of time; but I tried to get it in several instances, and found that the average might be from 14 to 15 hours a day. They work very late and they commence very early; but you must deduct something for trifles during the day, and resting and attending to children; you cannot take in all they say, else I would have said much longer hours.

31515. Do the manufacturers pay the same price, all of them, in the different houses?

For the common shirt I have been referring to, the manufacturers are very nearly all alike, within a penny.

31516. Has that price remained pretty constant?

It has; for the last two years it has not altered, as far as I can find out. One fact might be an interesting one to state, that several women told me that since we had started this effort, the little effort at the mission hall that I referred to first of all, and then our larger effort up in Walden-street, the wages had gone up a little; they had perceptibly risen; that is to say, the downward tendency was stopped, just as if the middlemen had got a little frightened. One woman showed me a shirt that she formerly got 8 *d.* for, as to which she said "Since you started we are getting 9 *d.* for it"; showing that there is some power that can be brought to bear.

31517. There is only one middleman in between, I presume; there is no further sub-contractor.

I should not think so; there is absolutely no margin for it. I might mention, if you would permit me, that one great difficulty in this shirt-finishing is the competition of unskilled labour; it is done by such poor old people, very often. I have before me just an instance: one old widow, 75 years of age, does finishing at 4 *d.* per dozen; can do two dozen a-day. The cotton costs her $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per dozen, which she provides herself. I said to her (it was on a Monday afternoon) 'You cannot live on that.' She said: "I had no dinner yesterday, till some one almost as poor as myself sent me a little." The woman was starving; literally had nothing in the house. That is the class of people we have to deal with; old people very often, and unskilled.

31518. Should you say that the middlemen or sweaters make an unfair profit themselves; or do you object to them merely on the ground that they make a profit not necessary to the trade, and that that profit might go in wages?

I object to them more on the ground that they are not necessary; that they come in when there is really no margin for them. I do not say that they take an unfair profit, in all cases; in some they may; nor would I unduly blame them; but they really are not necessary, and they are a cruel incident in the trade, so to speak.

31519. Then

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31519. Then I take it from you that, as regards the shirt-making, you think that, if the workers could be brought into direct communication with the manufacturers, the machinists could make a living?

I do distinctly.

31520. But that even in that case the finishers could not?

They could not, or it would be so bare as to be still a very poor living. I would name the actual figure to you; the most they could make would be about 5 s. or 6 s. a week under improved conditions.

31521. Are these class of shirts made chiefly for home consumption or for export?

For export; they may be made for home, but I know them only in the export trade, I being engaged in the export trade myself.

31522. Do you suppose that the manufacturer could afford to pay a higher rate, a rate at which a living could be made from the finishing?

I think he could; undoubtedly competition is very keen.

31523. What I mean is this: If you could imagine such a combination, as you have supposed, among the women for a rise of wage to be successful would that have the effect of driving the trade out of the country altogether?

I do not think so. I will give an instance not exactly in shirts but in other garments, and it will just illustrate the point in the best way. Four hundred knickerbocker suits were sent down to our Walden-street factory by a well-known firm in London; the price, we will say for argument's sake, was 1 s. 4 d. per suit; that is near it I know; the ticket said, "You did these at 1 s. 4 d. last time, I now want them for 1 s. 2 d." You see the process of lowering. Our manager down there appealed to me on the spot, and said "What am I to do?" I said: "Here is just the value of our institution; you have men at your back who are strong; defy the man, and say you will bundle them all back again unless he gives not only 1 s. 4 d. but 2 d. added on to that. We are very busy just now; give the women the advantage of that; that is where our united strength gives us a strong pull." He said: "I am glad to have your opinion; I will try." I asked him the next time I was there: "How about the 400 knickerbockers?" He said, "We got the 2 d. on at once; we got 1 s. 6 d. instead of 1 s. 4 d.;" showing that it is simply the union of the women, they being in a factory, without calling them trades unionists; the very fact of being united made them strong.

31524. And have you any idea how many women are engaged in making this class of shirts which you have been speaking of, and live under these conditions and circumstances?

From the investigations I have made, now extending over nearly two years, I should say the numbers must be very large, but I would not like to venture into the range of figures, they are so deceptive.

31525. Does the same state of things, or anything approaching it, exist in connection with the better class of shirts?

I do not think so; the people engaged on them are generally skilled machinists or sewers, and undoubtedly can always, if they are clever and diligent earn a living wage, I do not think it exists to the same extent, therefore, in that class of trade.

31526. It is confined to the cheaper class of goods and to the East-end?

Yes; I should say so.

31527. And you think the condition of things there is such as to drive the girls to immorality?

Unless they have other means of getting an income, I should say they have no other resource, unless it is to starve. Your Lordships might see that easily, from a simple extract that I took from our wages book, giving the wages paid under the improved conditions of our mission hall, that is without the middle-

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[Continued.]

man coming in at all ; you will be wonderfully struck with how low they are for the finishers : 1 s. 3 d., 2 s. 11 d., 4 s. 7 d., 3 s. 4 d. per week, and so on.

31528. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] How many hours does that represent ?
It represents working from eight till seven, with an hour's break.

31529. *Chairman*.] Perhaps you had better give us the rates of wages, if you can, for the shirts ?

I paid the finishers 6 d. and 7 d. per dozen, that was the total amount I got from the manufacturer. They had been previously getting from the middleman 3 d. and 4 d. for the same article.

31530. Have you ever known them to get as little as 2½ d. a dozen for finishing from the sweater ?

In one instance only.

31531. And then how much could they do in the day ?

An old woman might do two dozen ; a young clever woman might do three dozen.

31532. What did you pay for machining ?

I paid 1 s. and 1 s. 1 d., there was a little variety sometimes, but that was the wage as a rule, against what I suppose was 7 d. or 8 d., or, if the middleman was extra kind, 9 d. per dozen for the same thing.

31533. Do you find that there is competition to get into your factory in order to get work there ?

Yes, among the shirt women.

31534. Do they live at a distance, any of them ?

Yes, they live at a distance, and that is just the point we are battling with, but we can get as many as we can find work for, certainly.

31535. Lord *Monkswell*.] If a shirt finisher is clever with her needle I suppose she soon gets the more more skilled work ?

If she is young she rises to the higher grades, undoubtedly.

31536. A professional needlewoman would be unusually awkward if she only got work of this kind for any length of time ?

Yes, very awkward.

31537. In your opinion, does the middleman make a large profit ?

Well, I should rather lean to a contradiction of a statement that has been made, that he is making a tremendous lot of money in a short time. Undoubtedly, in some cases, he may do so ; but, as far as I know, the middleman is very often a very hard-working man himself. But I deny his necessity ; that is the point.

31538. Because it occurs to one that if it is a usual thing for the middleman to pay 3 d. or 4 d. for what he gets 6 d. or 7 d. for from the manufacturer, if he is at all in a large way of business he must make a large sum of money ?

Yes, I think it is so then.

31539. I suppose you would say that middlemen in a large way of business often rise to be rich men, and that if in a small way of business they have so little to do that the profits do not allow them to make a large sum of money ?

I think there are very many small middlemen with only a few pounds capital themselves.

31540. But I suppose there are some very rich middlemen, or do they always become manufacturers after a time ?

I believe there are richer middlemen amongst the tailoresses than among the shirt-makers ; I am told that there are some rich men among the tailor-class of operatives, but I should not say there are among the shirt-makers ; I have not found them yet.

31541. *Chairman*.]

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[Continued.]

31541. *Chairman.*] How would you describe the shirts ?

Oxford and Harvard shirts ; the women call them the blue shirts ; and also an article called flannelettes.

31542. All those three are paid the same, are they ?

They form the low-class shirts, and they are paid about the same.

31543. Have you anything else that you would like to say ?

I made a note here that Mrs. Casey's evidence seemed to me correct, and Mrs. Liddle's seemed fairly correct. I ought to say that the women were universally agreed in saying that the two houses I refer to as having factories at the East-end paid much better wages than the middleman. I think it is interesting to state that.

31544. You do not know, I suppose, do you, whether those two houses get the work done as cheaply or as satisfactorily as before ?

I can only say that they have been established for years, and one of the manufacturers certainly said to me that it was very satisfactory. I know them well, and I deal with them. I ought, perhaps, to say that another disadvantage of dealing with the middleman, as far as I can ascertain, is that there is no work on Monday ; the workers seemed all to say to me, "There is no work for us on Monday, whilst at your factory, or in the other factory we go to, there is work all the week long ; but he never has work on Monday, sometimes not on Saturday either." I suppose it is the carrying the work to and fro from the City that causes that, some detail of the trade of that kind ; but it presses very hard on the workers ; the wage is low enough without deducting working days.

31545. They are paid by the piece, are they not ?

Yes, by the dozen.

31546. The effect of that would be that they would have to crowd the work into the remaining days ?

Yes, they would have as much to do during the week, and would have to work longer during the other four or five days of the week.

31547. Have you anything else to say to the Committee ?

I think that is all.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MRS. DWELLY, is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows :

31548. *Chairman.*] ARE you married ?

Yes.

31549. What is your business ?

I am a shirt-maker.

31550. What is your husband's business ?

My husband has no trade at all ; he assists me in my business, it has been my trade all my life ; I was brought up in the trade.

31551. Does the house belong to you ?

No, I rent the house.

31552. Your husband does nothing ?

Yes, he works ; but it is not his business ; he works with me, of course.

31553. Do you consider yourself the head of the house ?

No, I do not.

31554. Why do you attend here instead of your husband ?

Because it is my business ; I am a practical shirtmaker.

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[Continued.]

31555. You make them ; your husband knows nothing about the business, is that so ?

My husband is a shirtcutter.

31556. Why did not your husband attend ?

Because he has to drive up to the City with the work this afternoon, that is the reason.

31557. Does your husband get work from various houses in the City ?

Yes, we get the material.

31558. You get the material from the houses ?

Yes.

31559. And you cut it up ?

Yes.

31560. Finishing it ?

Barring one house ; they allow me work on condition that they insure my premises from fire ; and they give me the work, and I am allowed to deduct from the work 3 *d.* a dozen as my profit, and I have to pay all expenses, rent, and cartage, and folding, and string for tying up, and of course to bear all losses ; should any shirts be lost they deduct the worth. That 3 *d.* a dozen is my profit ; I do not always get that.

31561. In what condition do you get it from the house is the work cut ?

Sometimes, and sometimes we cut it ; in the busy season we should cut it.

31562. I understand from this one house you take the work at 3 *d.* a dozen ?

Yes, and from all other houses I take it, and I cut it.

31563. What do the other houses pay you ?

A very good price.

31564. What is the price ?

Two-and-ninepence cutting and making, and they find the material.

31565. How many houses do you work for altogether ?

Four.

31566. Three out of those four, you say, pay you 2 *s.* 9 *d.* a dozen ?

For some work, for some work 5 *s.*

31567. But take the lowest ?

The lowest that I make is 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

31568. What would be the highest for any of these houses ?

The highest 5 *s.*

31569. Three of these houses pay you from 5 *s.* to 1 *s.* 8 *d.*

Not three ; one is a shipping house, and theirs is rather lower.

31570. Take these particular kinds of goods, flannelettes, Harvard, and Oxford ; what would you get paid for them ?

One shilling and twopence for all the flannelettes.

31571. That would be for the shipping house ?

No, it would be for where I am allowed to deduct 3 *d.*

31572. And do you do that kind of work for all these houses ?

No, not for all ; for that one house I do ; I only do the shipping trade for that one house and what I cut for ; it is the shipping trade, the low flannelettes, only it comes through another house before it arrives to us, and I take some of the shipping trade direct. What you are referring to comes from another house.

31573. What I want to understand is the difference of the terms for which you work for these different houses ; I think you said one house insured your place for you.

Yes, against fire.

31574. They

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Mrs. DWELLY.

[*Continued.*]

31574. They pay you for that?
Yes.

31575. And in consideration of paying, how do they get paid; why do they do it?
To insure themselves.

31576. You say that for this house you are allowed to make 3 *d.* deduction?
They will allow me a certain price for the goods and add on 3 *d.*; that is what I am to have for myself for carting, folding, and finding string, and losses, and taking it to and fro from the city. They allow me to deduct 3 *d.* out of what they give me for the shirt.

31577. This house makes a bargain with you that you are to pay certain prices to the people you employ; 3 *d.* of that off each dozen you take for profit yourself; is that what you mean?
Yes.

31578. For which you have to find the conveyance and other things you have mentioned?
Yes, and to go into the city nearly every day.

31579. And this particular house insists on your paying a certain rate of wage to your women?
Yes.

31580. And the other houses do not?
No.

31581. And the other houses pay you from 1 *s.* 8 *d.* up to 5 *s.*?
Yes.

31582. And as a rule you have to cut the material, but in some cases you get it ready cut?
I might get half ready cut.

31583. How much additional pay do you get when you have to cut it yourself?
Nothing; we always work on that profit, 3 *d.*; always have done.

31584. I understand from you that you get just the same price in the case where you have to cut the cloth yourself, as when it is cut for you?
I have to pay the cutter for cutting the work.

31585. That is your husband?
He has to have his wages for cutting, of course, if he does it.

31586. Have you any other cutter besides your husband?
Two.

31587. How do you pay them; by the piece?
Yes, by the piece, the same as I get paid myself.

31588. How many people have you working for you altogether?
I could not say exactly; 40 I should think.

31589. All in your own place?
No, all out of doors.

31590. Then what work do you do in your own place?
None; not any shirt-work.

31591. Where do you do the cutting; is not that done in your own place?
Yes, the cutting of course. I thought you meant the work.

31592. You do only the cutting at home?
Yes.

31593. Then what is the next process?
I sort it and give it out with the aid of a girl. I give it out to the workers.

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[*Continued.*]

31594. What happens next ?
It is machined.

31595. You send it out to the machinists ?
Yes.

31596. But do they work in their own homes ?
Yes.

31597. You pay them so much a dozen ?
Yes.

31598. What do you pay ?
If it is a 1 s. 2 d. shirt, I give 8 d. ; and 3 d. button-holing ; that is 11 d.

31599. Then take some other class of work ?
If it happens that we have only that common work, and I have to give them that work to do, I have to give them one halfpenny more for button-holing and a penny more for machining.

31600. What would be the lowest you pay for machining ?
Eightpence.

31601. And what is the lowest for button-holing ?
Threepence, never anything less.

31602. Then the shirts come back to you ?
Yes.

31603. And what would be the highest you would pay for machining ?
The highest I should pay for machining would be 3 s. per dozen.

31604. And for the finishing ?
I should give 9 d.

31605. Have you any idea how many dozens you do in a week ?
I should think we do about 300 in the busy time, but this last four months we have not been doing 100.

31606. And your profit is 3 d. a dozen ?
Yes ; then of course I have the girls to pay out of that, helpers to help me.

31607. You mean in your own place ?
Yes.

31608. You told me just now that you did nothing in your own place ?
But I could not fold all the work and take it into the city. I have a servant girl and a folder to help me.

31609. What do you give the folder ?
I have to give her 5 s. a week ; she is only a girl.

31610. And that is all you employ in your own place ?
Yes.

31611. Has your husband ever worked at any other trade ?
He has been in the docks, I think.

31612. Then, as I understand you, in some cases, in the shipping case, the shirts come from the firm in the city, through another firm in the city, to you ?

No, they supply different warehouses in the city and ship stuff where I work, and give it to me out to work.

31613. You told me just now that some class of work, I think for shipping, came to you through another firm ?

No, I said what you were speaking of then, the flanneltte shirts, came through another firm.

31614. All the work you do comes direct from the persons who sell it ?
Yes, very large firms in the city.

31615. Comes

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[Continued.]

31615. Comes direct from them to you ?
To me.

31616. And you cut it out, and put it out to other people to be done ?
Yes, and pay my people every time they bring the work in.

31617. Do you get out work every day ?
Yes, every day.

31618. Mondays and Saturdays included ?
Mondays and Saturdays as well.

31619. And put out work every day ?
And put out work every day.

31620. When do you pay the people ?
Everytime they bring work in.

31621. Do you have any particular time for the work to be brought in ?
Yes, from nine to four.

31622. If they do not bring it in in time, what then ?
We cannot overlook it just then, and they must leave it and come back again in the evening, perhaps at 8 o'clock.

31623. Do not you fine them, or make some deduction for the inconvenience in that case ?
No.

31624. Never ?
Never.

31625. Do the same people work for you constantly ; have your present workers been working for you for a long time ?
One hand has been working for me for 20 years.

31626. And most of them have worked for you for a long time, have they ?
Yes.

31627. And they have to come to you for the work, I suppose, and bring it back to you ?

Yes, I give all the work out and take it in.

31628. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do the manufacturers leave it entirely to you as to whether you pay your workpeople the proper wages or not ; or do they exercise any supervision over you ?

No, but of course they would soon hear ; if I did not pay the wages I should not get the work done.

31629. You mean the workers would tell them ?

Yes, because my people go to and fro to the same houses where I work.

31630. So that the women know perfectly well what you get, and what they ought to be paid ?

Yes.

31631. *Chairman*.] How long does it take to cut out a dozen shirts ?

They cut them in six, or eight, or ten dozens.

31632. How long does it take to cut six dozen shirts ?

About two hours ; the cutter would receive 6 *d.* for cutting three dozen of the lowes shirts

31633. One shilling for dozens ?

Yes.

31634. Do you know what these girls or women who do the machinery can earn ?

Yes.

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[*Continued.*]

31635. What do they earn in a day or week ?

I pay several hands daily, and they generally bring me every morning two dozen of 1 s. 3 d. shirts, that is 2 s. 6 d. nearly every morning ; the same hands are fetching perhaps three dozen of the 1 s. ones, perhaps 2½ dozen of the 1 s. ones.

31636. And for finishing, what can they earn ?

I have got one hand that I pay 7 s. a week to, if she comes indoors for a week ; but we have not started this year, the trade being so slack ; and on an average she reckons her money 1 s. 6 d. a day. She gets up early in the morning.

31637. How many hours does she work ?

From about seven or half-past seven till eight at night.

31638. I suppose you do not know how many hours she works ?

I do know.

31639. Is there anything else you wish to say ?

No, I do not think so.

31640. Do most of the people who work with you live near where you live ?
Yes.

31641. I forget if you told us where your place is ?
It is in Ida-street.

31642. And most of the hands live near you, you say ?
Yes ; some live at a distance.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday the
20th of June, Eleven o'clock.

Die Jovis, 11^o Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Earl of DERBY.

Viscount GORDON (*Earl of Aberdeen*).

Lord CLINTON.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord FOXFORD (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord MONKSWELL.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL),
IN THE CHAIR.

MR. DAVID LUBELSKI, is called in ; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows :

31643. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?
Wholesale clothing manufacturer.

31644. At Leeds?
Yes ; at 20, Park Cross-street ?

31645. How long have you been in the trade ?
I have been in the trade for 20 years.

31646. Twenty years a wholesale manufacturer ?
No ; I have been in business for myself since 1873.

31647. Before that, what were you doing ?
I was working as a journeyman in the tailoring.

31648. Working in a shop ?
In a shop.

31649. You have been in Leeds altogether how long ?
Above 20 years.

31650. Were you born in this country ?
No, I am a Pole ; I come from Warsaw.

31651. Have you ever acted as a middleman ?
I did up to about two years ago.

31652. That is to say, taking out work from other houses and getting it
made at your own place ?
Yes.

31653. How many hands did you employ there ?
Between 60 and 70 sometimes, and sometimes less.

31654. It has been suggested in evidence that the foremen in these large
establishments practically act as middlemen, absorbing profit, for which they do
nothing, owing to the fact that it is a customary thing for the middlemen or
sweaters, as they have sometimes been called, to bribe them ; is that the case,
do you know ?
Yes.

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Mr. LUBELSKI.

[*Continued.*]

31655. You think that is the case ?
It is.

31656. Is that very generally done ?
Yes ; up to the time I left off being a middleman it was done so.

31657. Has it ever occurred to you to have to do that yourself ?
Yes, I had to do it, I am very sorry to say, and if I did not give sufficient bribery I did not get sufficient trade. But I have a large family ; I have 10 children, and I could not afford to give bribery as much as the others gave. They gave more bribery than me, and they have worked themselves into a good position, so that they get all the trade.

31658. Then, in fact, you mean that the better the bribe the more work the man gets ?

Yes, in the best work. If I happened to miss giving any bribery I suddenly was stopped of a bit of work.

31659. And you say the system is common, in your opinion ?
It has always been done so, all the time that I have been a middleman.

31660. The Committee have been told that that is one of the reasons why the workmen's wages are so low, that the middleman has to cut down the wages as much as possible, because he has to take out of his profits the money he uses to bribe the foremen ; is that so, do you think ?

It is not so much lowering the wages, but driving the workmen.

31661. What do you mean by " driving " ?

I will explain it. If a man gets a wage and gets constant work, I certainly say that he gets a good wage ; but with regard to the wages that the workmen or hands get in these middlemen's shops, they simply work so many days in the week ; they do not start on a Sunday morning as Jews, or on a Monday morning as Christian girls, and they work up till Friday, sunset ; they work only certain days in the week. When a middleman gets out a quantity of the work on a Saturday, and if he thinks that he will not have sufficient to go on till Monday night, he already gets the tip from the foreman about the place to say, " Well, I do not think you will get much work brought on Monday " ; and therefore he only starts, say Monday dinner time. Then he starts with a certain class of hands, that is, one portion of the shop, as we call them machinists ; another, he starts next morning with the tailors, and at dinner time he starts again with feller hands, and buttonhole hands ; and the day following he starts with the pressers, and then he drives the workers late hours at night and early in the morning to get his work in by Friday. And the first portion of the hands which I have mentioned get stopped on a Thursday, for instance ; they do not get Friday work, on account of its being a short day ; simply the middleman gets the advantage of the day's wage for himself ; and of course this is the way that they are doing regularly in the shops in Leeds.

31662. What I want to get from you is whether in your opinion it is true that because the middlemen are obliged to bribe the foremen, they are therefore compelled to deal more hardly with their workmen than they otherwise would do ?

Decidedly ; because the workman has to work for a living for the middleman, and for all his expenses, because some of them are not tailors by trade ; it is very seldom they are ; and then he has to work for the foreman to be bribed, and for the middlemen to have all the luxuries, that they can do by spending money.

31663. From your experience are the numbers of your countrymen increasing largely in Leeds or not ; I mean are there more Jews ?

I could not exactly say that, because I very seldom come in that neighbourhood, as I have passed out of the business as a middleman ; therefore I could not so fully explain that matter.

31664. Have you anything you wish to say as to the general condition in which the workpeople live ?

They

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Mr. LUBELSKI.

[*Continued.*]

They live very wretchedly ; they are very poor. I know they often enough come to me, or some of my friends, to make collections for the Jewish tailors. I must say that they have not sufficient work always to keep themselves right. You know there was a strike in Leeds. I helped as much as I could the workmen, and I am sorry to say they could not gain the day on account of being so poor, because they were obliged to give in to the middlemen and they could not stand the time they would have got taken off. They simply wanted this when the strike was. The machinists and pressers combined together with the tailors and they said, " Why should you be worse than we ; the Jew tailor on the board has to work from seven to eight ; why cannot you work the same hours as we do ? " and they struck work on account of this, that the tailors should work from eight to eight the same as the other men ; and the masters would not give in ; and the people were obliged to give in at the time ; and I think it was not right then of the middlemen.

31665. Have you any suggestions to make as to how the evils you complain of could be remedied ?

Yes, there are lots of things to that effect to do. It would be a good thing if the governors of certain firms would look into the case themselves ; they should not leave it to their foremen. There are some of the large firms in Leeds which leave it to their foremen and never take any notice. The governor cannot help it ; so long as he gets his work done, he leaves it entirely to the foreman ; if the foreman does as he likes he gives it to his favourite. For instance, there is a large firm now existing in Leeds ; I must say they are perfect gentlemen ; I know the foreman does simply give the work to three or four men ; 18 years ago to my knowledge they employed 18 to 20 master tailors, middlemen. Now, though the trade has increased in Leeds to a great extent, there are only three or four that get the trade ; and this firm has increased by about 2,000 hands in the time that I remember. And then they used to have about 18 or 20 middlemen employed about 18 years ago ; now they only give to such middlemen as I mentioned, to the favourites, to three or four ; and it is done by the foreman only, unknown to the governors. I went to a gentleman before I left Leeds yesterday morning, a certain practical tailor who worked for the firm occasionally, and you can refer to him if you like ; I can give you the name if you wish to do so ; but I said to him, " Now I am going before the House of Lords ; now you remember you used to work for such and such a firm." He said, " Yes, I wish you would only mention my name ; they should have my evidence. As you know I am a practical tailor and I used to do a good trade for a certain firm, but now such and such men who are shoemakers or carriers, or blacksmiths, have the trade, and I, a good tailor and others like me, have to do simply what we can get ; " I said, " I will do my best to mention those words."

31666. I take it from you that owing to the system of bribing men who are not practical tailors get the work, and that the practical tailors can get none ?

That is it.

31667. And that you think that a great deal of good could be done if the heads and responsible persons in large houses would not leave matters so much to their foremen ?

That is so. And not only that, I know for a fact (I have been myself in this trade) that they have done this : Certain firms have got good men at Leeds to do the best work. And what have those favourites done that work for such a firm. They have actually told the foreman to take the buttons off the coat and shave the linen and canvas away, and then sew the buttons on the bare cloth. And then the foreman showed the coat to the governors and said, " Now look here ; this is a fresh tailor, and he reckons to do the best trade, and he sews on a button on the bare cloth ; " and the governor said, " Well, if he does work like this you must not give him work any more." That was done by bribery ; because I have been with the parties when it has been done so.

31668. We understand from you I think sufficiently what your opinion is about the action of the foremen in the matter ; to pass on from that, are there any other suggestions that you have to make ?

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Mr. LUBELSKI.

[Continued.]

The suggestion is that the work ought to be divided between more middlemen; that one should not have a full earning and the others starve; the work ought to be divided, and then there will not be such poverty amongst the Jews in Leeds, amongst the tailors. I know I have had to suffer myself; I have a family of ten, and I have to suffer much in the same way, and I feel for others the same as for myself.

31669. Do you mean that the condition of the people is worse than it used to be?

Yes, because these favourites have their own, and they keep it between them; there are three or four favourites in the place, and they give the foreman so much bribery that no one can get over it.

31670. Have you anything else you wish to say?

There are also some foremen that are not practical tailors; they do not understand a garment

31671. I think we have heard enough about the foremen; is there any other point you wish to mention?

If you wish to ask me anything I should be very pleased to answer you.

31672. Earl of *Derby*.] You say that the masters ought to attend more to the distribution of the work, and not leave it so much in the hands of foremen?

Yes.

31673. That may be very good advice to the masters, but I presume you do not suppose that any rule of that kind could be enforced by Act of Parliament?

It could be done so far to my knowledge as to see that one should not be starving altogether and the others have luxuries; that is my idea.

31674. It is not a question of what masters or foremen ought to do, but of what we can cause to be done by legislative action; there is nothing in what you have said that can be enforced by any Act of Parliament, is there?

Well, I am not so deep in the laws; but what I mean is that the governor might look in and ask a question of the foreman and say: "I think this man has drawn too much wages this week, and why, if this other man can do it, cannot he get a bit more?" For instance, if I get work to do to the extent of 5 *l.* a week, and another man 100 *l.* a week, am I not entitled to have 50 *l.* or 20 *l.* a week, and the other man not to have the whole lump.

31675. You mean, when there are a certain number of men asking for employment, it ought to be more or less equally divided among them?

Yes, that is my idea.

31676. Then you consider that every competent workman who comes to an employer and asks to be employed has a right to be employed?

He ought to get a job to have a trial. I know for a fact a case in which a practical tailor came in and got some work to do; the foreman had got to give it to him because the governor ordered him to give it, and he got a certain article to do. And what did the foreman do; he went and told certain other men: "Now," he said, "be aware that such-and-such a man has got such-and-such an article to do which will be laid before the governor to be proved." This man did not know anything about it that it would go before the governor, but the foreman's favourites did know; and both articles were laid before the governor. I think it is hard to deprive a practical tailor of his living.

31677. If I understand you then, what you object to is the right of the employer to choose his own workmen?

I say that the master should employ a practical tailor, and not let him have any work if he is not a tailor. If the middleman is no tailor he has no right to have work.

31678. Then would you have everybody examined as to their knowledge of tailoring before they are employed?

Well,

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Well, he must make a job. If a man comes here and calls himself a practical tailor and really is a shoemaker or a glazier, you cannot believe him to be a tailor; at least I should not.

31679. I presume if he does not understand his business that is very soon found out, and he is not employed any more?

But he employs hands who do understand the business; but he is himself simply a nigger driver in the shop.

31680. Do you object to there being a middleman altogether, or do you say that he ought to be a practical tailor himself?

He ought to be a practical tailor, a workman himself; if the working men leave him he ought to be able to sit down and do his own job.

31681. But do you think that Parliament or Government could interfere to require that every middleman should be a practical tailor?

I think they ought to be. If I serve my time, and a bricklayer comes in and asks for a job, I think I am more entitled than the bricklayer to get the job, if it is my trade that I have learnt. That is my idea; but it is not for me to do the thing; it is only my opinion of it, that if I have learned the trade I think I am more entitled than any shoemaker or glazier to get the job.

31682. You would have employment confined to those who can show that they have worked up their way in the business?

Yes.

31683. And no outsider to be allowed to come in?

No; that is my opinion.

31684. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do these middlemen of whom you speak generally employ a large number of workmen or only a few?

A large number.

31685. Twenty, 30 or 40?

Sixty or 70, or 80, or more; and I think they ought to be divided.

31686. A man employing 70 or 80 workmen would have enough to do himself, would he not, in looking after them, without doing any work?

He does not look after them; he keeps men to look after them; he simply walks up and down; and if he grabs all the work away in occupying such a large manufactory, a practical man has no chance to get a bit of work because the other man is in a large way, and he bribes in the largest way.

31687. But it might be an advantage to the large manufacturers; to the people that you allude to, the governors, the masters of the establishment; to have their work done by these men who employ a large number of men?

It never used to be done so.

31688. Lord *Monkswell*.] Do you say that it is a new system, this bribery of foremen?

No, it is not a new system.

31689. Has it been increasing?

It has always been done up to the time when I retired from being a middleman.

31690. But I thought you said that employers used to employ more middlemen than they do now; the great firms that you have mentioned?

Yes, they had more middlemen then; they have worked themselves in with certain people.

31691. But your answers would lead one to suppose that the evil was getting greater?

Bribery goes on heavier still; every time more.

31692. Do you say that every employer allows his foreman to bribe?

I do not know whether the employer knows about it.

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31693. Did you never tell an employer that the foreman asked for a bribe from you?

I went on one occasion myself to the governor.

31694. And what happened?

I am sorry to say the governor died. He looked into the matter, and if you allow me I can mention the name.

31695. Did you never make any inquiry of any other governor who is not dead?

No; I have done all I could, and every time I tried to kick up a row I used to get a bit of work.

31696. Why did you not go on "kicking up a row"?

Because I got tired of it, and I thought it would not pay me going on like that; and I could not give such high bribery as others did; I had too much to do, with my family to look after.

31697. But I should have thought that if the bribery was a good investment, if you employed 60 or 70 men you would have been able by degrees to have accumulated a little money to have bribed more?

I did, till they kept me for many weeks, coming every day asking for work morning and night, or next day, and so on, till I got tired of it.

31698. You found that the demands were so heavy that you could not comply with them?

No, I could not.

31699. Earl of *Aberdeen*.] Do you know whether this system of bribes, as you describe it, of foremen is in practise in other kinds of business besides your own?

I can only tell of my business; I cannot say about any other business.

31700. Have you had many complaints from other people about it?

In the same trade do you mean? Yes, plenty of them. "If I could do so-and-so," they say, "I would get more work."

31701. *Chairman*.] Do you consider the middlemen necessary in the trade; do you think it necessary that there should be any middlemen?

They could not do very well without the middlemen, I think, unless the governors took the trade inside and gave the work to the men inside, which I think would be very good for the Jews, because they would have regular work and they would work during certain hours, from eight to half-past six; and I think it ought to be done so.

31702. You think that it would be better that the work should be done without the middleman at all?

Yes.

31703. But I understand you that what you principally object to is the middlemen who are not tailors at all?

Several of them are not.

31704. And I understand you also that these men who have no practical knowledge of the trade whatever, are enabled to get work because they bribe the foremen to give it to them?

That is so.

31705. And practically, therefore, I gather from you that if this bribing of foremen, and favouritism shown by foremen, and so on, was stopped there would not be very much to complain of?

No.

31706. And when you said, in answer to Lord Derby, that you thought that these men who had no practical knowledge of the trade ought not to have work given to them, are we to understand you to mean that you think that the law ought to step in to prevent it, or simply that in your opinion it is not right that they should have work?

Decidedly

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Decidedly it ought to be stopped, so as to give it only to practical men who are tailors, no other men.

31707. But I suppose you have no idea, have you, how the law could stop it? I could not say. The only thing I think is, that if a man is not a tradesman of that sort he ought not to have a job, but it should be given to the man who has served his apprenticeship. And the long hours are abominable that they work in Leeds; from seven to eight, I think, is too long hours for any man to work.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. DAVID ISAAC, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

31708. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your business?
I am a jeweller.

31709. In Leeds?
In Leeds.

31710. How long have you been in Leeds?
I have been there 36 years.

31711. Are you well acquainted with the condition of the Jewish working population in Leeds?

I am very much acquainted with the Jewish population all round. First, when I came to Leeds, there were not above half-a-dozen Jewish inhabitants in the town of Leeds; now they nearly number 5,000 Jewish inhabitants.

31712. And what are they principally engaged in, tailoring?
Tailoring, the majority.

31713. In your opinion does this sweating that is complained of obtain in Leeds to a large extent?

Yes, and it does a deal of harm both to the Jewish poor, and also to the English working man in the same trade; I am acquainted with both sides, and I frequently meet them, and I hear from the two sides the complaint.

31714. Well, what is the complaint?

If your Lordships will permit me, I will say a few words in explanation. About 20 years ago there were a number of foreign tailors employed, and such a thing as sweaters was not known then, and any practical tradesman in that branch of trade might have come to Leeds and been employed by the proper employer if he was competent to do his work, and the man could obtain a very respectable living as a working man, and would not injure his fellow English working man in the prices. But of late years a kind of sweating system, a kind of middleman has sprung up, starting with small bribery and raising it year by year, with the result that the strongest man, the man able to give the heaviest bribe, is the man that holds possession of the warehouse; he holds the position which enables him to get the work from the warehouse, whilst the smallest men are knocked out gradually by not being able to support those men that take the bribe. The first bribe that was given, to my idea or to my knowledge, was by a man who gave a horse and trap to a manager. I can mention above a dozen or two cases where goods were purchased from me by the middlemen and sent to the managers of this trade.

31715. Do you mean that the middlemen bribe the foremen or managers by giving them presents of articles bought from you?

Yes, presents. Of late years all those bribes have ceased in the shape of jewellery, but they have turned into cash presents, such a thing as 40 l. or 50 l. ready cash; and the one that cannot do that, cannot get employment at all from the managers. For instance, a competent working man shall go to a warehouse; he shall possess recommendations and he shall possess capital to

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apply to a warehouse ; he will get no employment because he has done nothing towards the managing body in the warehouse, and he does not get the work because, although he is a practical man, he simply does not get an understanding with the managing body of that warehouse ; therefore he cannot get any work. Now this middleman has an understanding that no work shall be given to anybody else but a certain clique, that is, those men that bribe ; and between those men that bribe and those men that accept the bribe, it is an understood thing. For instance, a man comes and asks for work in the warehouse. " No, we have no work." He goes away from one warehouse to the other, " No, we have no work." Ultimately this man is driven into the hands of the sweater or middleman.

31716. I thought the man of whom you were talking was himself a middleman ?

Naturally, to begin with, he was a working man. But I am speaking of a competent man coming to Leeds ; just as one of the weavers or iron-workers coming into a town goes to an establishment where his own trade is carried on and asks for employment ; if they are open they will engage him as long as he has a character and such like. But in the case of this trade it does not matter how respectable a man may be ; if he is a stranger and has no understanding as regards the bribing, he can get no work.

31717. Lord *Clinton*.] You are not a tailor yourself ?

No, I am not a tailor, I am a jeweller ; but I have unfortunately to bear a good deal of the consequences of the treatment of the tailors ; I have to bear by charity in various ways a great deal of unjust things, and I cannot help myself.

31718. *Chairman*.] You were telling us how a man could not get work, and would fall then into the hands of the middleman ?

Yes. Now I, for one, should like to see if possible that a Jew middleman, or any Jew working man (if he differs in religion, he has no right to differ in the hours of labour from the rest of the inhabitants of the nation), whether he is a tailor or whatever other trade he is, should fall in with the hours of the rest of the country, not that a Jew sweater should let the majority of these working men run for three days a week without any employment, and the last two days in the week be driven in the sweating system.

31719. First of all as to this bribery ; I presume I am right in understanding from you that you would agree with the last witness that it is very common ?

Decidedly.

31720. That work practically cannot be got by middlemen or master tailors unless they bribe ?

No.

31721. Well, do you agree with the last witness also, that it is by means of bribery that a great deal of the work is obtained by men who are not practical tailors at all ?

Well, I cannot speak to that ; I am not a tailor, and therefore I could not say as to that ; but what I do know is that bribery is an evil of this tailoring trade amongst the Jewish inhabitants of Leeds.

31722. I was going to ask you whether you thought the middleman necessary to the trade at all ?

Certainly not. A man that has no capital invested, no skill, no education, why should he deprive a man in this trade, who is a competent tailor, of the chance of going to a warehouse and obtaining his weekly wages the same as the rest of the trade in the country ; why should a man stand betwixt the working man and the employer, and take part of the wages that that working man is entitled to away from him.

31723. I did not quite understand what you meant about the Jews conforming to the same hours of work ?

I understand, if I know anything about the matter, that there is a law in the land

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land that working hours are such-and-such, from say seven in the morning till half-past five, or something of that sort, unless they are very busy all the week round, and then overtime comes in naturally; but the Jewish working men are very likely going three days in the week without doing anything, and the other two or three days in the week they are not working steadily as workmen should work, but they are driven by sheer force, not having time to enjoy, as a human being should, a drink of water. For instance, I know of a case where they had a lad (they called him a runner in the workshop, I believe), and a man was standing pressing, and he said to this lad, "Now go and fetch me a drink of water." He fetched that drink of water. The master caught him on the steps with the drink of water. "What is that for?" "That is a drink of water for So-and-so." He began cursing and using very bad language, and he took the drink of water out of his hands, and he said, "He must do without." I am speaking of what occurred in a strike in which I took an interest, but with no bias in the direction of either party, but I convinced myself to my sorrow that it was really true, and I would scarcely believe that a brother Jew, one to another, would be so harsh and unprincipled.

31724. Do you think that there is a distinction in the Act of Parliament between the Jewish and Christian workers; is that what you mean?

I think that the middleman does not conform himself to the law of the land in the hours of labour.

31725. Whether he is a Jew or whether he is a Christian do you mean?

I am not acquainted with the middlemen of the Christian trade, as I do not come so much amongst them; I am only confining myself to what I can substantiate.

31726. Do you know what the law is as regards the hours of labour?

If I understand it right, it is from seven till half-past five for the tailor-working; I may be wrong.

31727. Then you speak of middlemen; do you mean middlemen that have large shops that would come under any Act of Parliament, or do you mean men working in their own rooms?

Men that have their own shops. I do not call them middlemen as long as they can fight their own way.

31728. But when you speak of middlemen breaking the Act of Parliament, do you mean middlemen who have factories, and shops, and employ hands, or a man who works in his own room?

When I speak of middlemen I mean men that go to the warehouse and get the work out by hundreds, and you may say, almost by thousands of garments which do not leave room for the free will of the working men.

31729. In these shops are there men, women, and children employed?

I suppose so.

31730. But do you know?

Yes, men, women, and children.

31731. Do you mean that they work later hours than they ought to?

The men certainly, some of them, work till 11 o'clock at night.

31732. But the women?

I never watched them; but they do not work proper hours according to what I understand the law of the land to be; I may be mistaken.

31733. If you tell the Committee that they do not work proper hours, and at the same time cannot explain what you consider the law of the land says are proper hours, we do not understand your evidence?

If it is proper hours, from seven to half-past five, I will guarantee that the Jews do not work under that system; because if they did work under that system, instead of having three days' work and being paid so-much for such long days, they would make five days out of it, and it would be an improvement altogether to the working people for their health and strength.

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31734. I take it that you complain that the middlemen crowd their work into three days of exceptionally long hours, and that you think it would be much better if the work were done in six days of more reasonable hours?

Yes.

31735. And that you think that in doing that they are breaking the law?
Yes, I think so.

31736. But as I understand, in your opinion this bribery is the main cause and root of the evil?

The bribery is the cause why a few will get the upper hand of the multitude. They get all the trade from the warehouse to themselves; then they get the majority of the working men into their clutches, and they can then exercise them as they think proper.

31737. Have you anything to say as to the sanitary condition of the people's houses and shops?

I have not; I am not acquainted with that; I have only to say this: as regards the condition of some of our Jewish brethren in Leeds, you will find that through the very heavy exertion of using the iron now and then they rupture themselves or go into a decline, and it is not in one or two cases only, but numerous cases; and there are charitable gatherings, and we have to suffer because they come for collections. The middleman reaps the money whilst the workman is in good strength and health, and when he is a wasting or ailing man he falls on the hands of the public or the Jewish inhabitants.

31738. Have you anything to say about the rate of wages they earn?

Well, as regards the wages, I for one say this: If a man is a working man he ought to have steady wages in this trade as in any other trade.

31739. Do you know anything of the wages?

There is no steady system. He may earn 25 s. one week, 30 s. another; and he may have one day idle out of the week, or he may have three; there is no regular steady system as all other workshops that I know have, such as carpenters, painters, and builders. They have a certain number employed weekly, and get their regular wages. And in this trade it would be a good thing if they would not bribe so much, but start the trade steadily; let a man steadily work five days, and make his 30 s., instead of making 25 s. in three days.

31740. Earl of *Derby*.] What I understand you chiefly object to, is the practice of men being obliged to work very hard during three days in the week and not getting work during the other three?

Yes.

31741. How is that to the employer's interest; why is it to the employer's interest to crowd all the work into half the week?

You allude to the middleman's interest; do I understand your Lordship rightly?

31742. What I said was the employer's interest; but take the middleman's interest also?

If this middleman would set down these men to work as human beings ought to work, steadily and quietly, he could not get through the work in a way that would make it pay what he is aiming to get from it; but if he can make three days out of what ought to be five days, he squeezes out of the working man for himself the remainder, the difference.

31743. Then you mean that a man should be employed five days on work which he now does in three days, and should be paid, I presume, for five days instead of three days?

Proportionately, as a working man's wages ought to run. There are cases where we may consider a working man ought to earn 20 s., or 25 s., or 30 s., or 35 s., to be able to maintain a little cottage in a respectable way.

31744. Then

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31744. Then it resolves itself into this; that in your opinion the wages paid to the people employed in this trade are not as high as they ought to be?

No, certainly not. When the strike was on there were 800 Jewish young people together, and the question arose, how much they would like to receive per week steady work from Sunday morning, as Jews, till Friday afternoon. There was a unanimous cry that if they could get from 27*s.* to 30*s.* they would be all round satisfied; and I think that is not an exorbitant wage. Then there is another case I want to bring before you. I am a little bit of a subscriber to the dispensary; and during the strike one of the working men's wives fell very seriously ill and they called for an assistant of the surgeon of the dispensary. Now I only draw your attention to the cuteness of those middlemen. Because the men were on strike they used every endeavour even to prevent even one of the assistants of the dispensary going to assist this poor woman because she was ill, and they said, "Oh, the man is on strike; he has plenty of money and can pay." I was awfully hurt when I went and examined it personally and found it correct; and I could prove it with hundreds of Jewish inhabitants of Leeds; and I thought it very sad that a class of middlemen should so crush men, and so determine to keep other people in subjection under their thumbs, I thought it very sad.

31745. You tell us that you object to middlemen generally?

I do.

31746. But you have not stated any means by which they could be got rid of?

I think they could be got rid of if the master, the proper employer, would open a workshop and let every man or woman fit to do the duty come and work when there is work, and did not let bribery and such like take the advantage.

31747. But it is not only bribery, if I understand, that you object to; you object to the employer having favourites, that is to say, his choosing to employ certain persons and not to employ others?

It is not the employer direct that I am alluding to; it is the manager of the machinery before it comes to the employer; it very likely never comes to the employer, and if it does the manager will very likely turn round and say, "Well, here is a garment for which you paid 2*s.* 3*d.* 12 months ago, and now you see I have reduced it to 2*s.*; therefore, I am working it to your benefit. You do not mind my taking a little present, do you"? I have heard that sort of tale told by men who have had the experience of it; and of course everyone in business sees his own interest, and if the master sees that he can turn out 5,000 garments and save 3*d.* a garment, he keeps quiet and says, "It suits my purpose."

31748. Lord Clinton.] I think you said that the Jewish population of Leeds had increased very much lately?

Yes.

31749. Is it still increasing?

I think so.

31750. If the conditions of work are so bad, how is it that the Jewish people flock to Leeds?

Because the poor things are very badly situated where they are, and they come over without experience of what may befall them.

31751. Then it is foreign immigration, is it?

Yes, foreign immigration.

31752. They are attracted to Leeds by what they hear?

They hear that the tailoring trade is so prosperous; just like many of our English working-men going to America or elsewhere; they think that they can make their fortunes, and when they get there they find difficulties in the way.

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31753. But I suppose in the case of these Jews who come to Leeds their friends write and ask them to come over?

Very likely many of them do.

31754. Why should they do that if times are so bad in Leeds?
I cannot answer for other people.

31755. Is it not because they can get work there; because, though the conditions are not good, they can get a living?

As regards getting a living, I should like them to get a living in a reasonable way; I would like to see them living where they can have an existence, being competent to improve their little homes once in a way, or being able to go to the market and buy a bit of wholesome food. Unfortunately really the poor things are in degraded circumstances, and they cannot help themselves.

31756. I do not understand why they should come to Leeds, why their friends allow them to come; there must be something attractive?

Those are circumstances I cannot explain.

31757. With regard to the jewellery, you say that persons engaged in the tailoring trade buy jewellery from you and give the articles as bribes to managers?

They used to do.

31758. How did you know; did they tell you what they were going to do with it?

Yes; I am acquainted all round, and know the circumstances well.

31759. They made no secret of it?

To me they did not.

31760. You think it was very well known?

Yes.

31761. Do you mean to say that the master tailors, and all tailors in Leeds, knew perfectly that their foremen received bribes from middlemen?

Yes.

31762. You say that you think the whole trade knew it?

Yes; it is to their interest, because the more the bribe the manager takes the less the work is paid.

31763. That is rather a serious charge to make against the tailors of Leeds, is it not?

It may be a serious charge, but I believe I have authority for what I am saying.

31764. Still you have never been engaged yourself in the tailoring trade?

No.

31765. And what you tell us you tell us from hearsay?

From experience; knowledge that came to my ears direct from the place.

31766. You heard it?

Yes; and there are other circumstances. I am well acquainted with the English inhabitants of Leeds, what I call the Christian element, and there would always be harmony if the working Jewish inhabitants could get employed equal to the English workman, so that a Jew should not be driven to do any work for half price and turn a Christian out because he would not work at those prices. Unfortunately the Englishman suffers by it, and I may say as a citizen of Leeds for many years, I meet the two parties and I hear both sides of the question, and I am very sorry to think that in many cases it would be well if the law would come in and make the trade work certain hours a day, saying, if a man is a tailor let him do his duty, and do not drive people to work under the trade for low prices; so that the English working-man should be able to get the proper working-man's price.

31767. Lord

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31767. Lord *Monkswell*.] I understand that you are of opinion that middlemen exist only because foremen take bribes; that if foremen did not take bribes there would be no necessity for middlemen?

Instead of such a thing in Leeds as 80 or 90 middlemen altogether in all the warehouses, there might be 500 that would get a little extra work and have a girl or two who would help them, to make it reasonable for all parties.

31768. Then you think middlemen could not be done away with altogether; you do not think it would be possible, if foremen did not take bribes, for the working men to get the work always direct from the employer?

Only the employer should have workshops to take on work, all that came as tailors to get employed, like what happens in many trades that I know.

31769. Then what you feel is that sometimes there would be so much work to be done that a man would be able to get from an employer enough work, not only to keep himself employed, but to employ one or two other people, women or girls?

Yes; just medium, reasonable.

31770. *Chairman*.] Are there not numbers of Jews coming to Leeds from other parts of England and from Scotland?

I am sorry to say that if there are a few good tailors they get knocked out of Leeds.

31771. I am not sure that you understood my question; I asked you whether English tailors were not coming to Leeds from other towns?

I answer you that according to my knowledge it is *vice versa*.

31772. You think not?

No.

31773. But that the Jews who are coming are coming in from abroad?

Yes.

31774. And I gather from you that you think the law might limit the hours of male labour, that the men should not be allowed to work more than a certain number of hours a day?

That is my opinion.

31775. If that were done, do not you suppose that the effect would be that they would earn less wages?

No; because, instead of working two or three days a week they would work five, and if they would work steadily and work five days, and if they earned anything reasonable, 30 s. or 35 s., I think that would be more pleasant.

31776. I do not quite understand what you mean; do you mean that the men should work five days a week instead of three, and earn the same wages as now, or that they should be paid the five days' wages?

Five days at so much a day and so much an hour, according to working men's wages, steadily and regularly; and instead of being three days' labour these would be five days' labour for them, and instead of being driven they should be led with a humane feeling towards them.

31777. But I am talking about what you suggest could be done by Act of Parliament; of course an Act of Parliament cannot compel a master to be humane, but it could limit the hours of labour; and you think it ought to do so?

Yes.

31778. I want to know from you whether that would not merely have the effect of diminishing the wages?

No, I think not.

31779. Do you think it is the case that the middlemen are compelled to pay less wages than they otherwise would, or to work people harder than they otherwise would, on account of the bribes they give the foremen?

Decidedly; they make it out of the working men?

31780. Practically, you would say that the workman was to pay the bribe?

Yes.

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31781. And that if the bribing were done away with the working-man would be better off?

He would have a chance of going to the employer and getting employment. and according to his merits he would receive his reward.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. DAVID LUBELSKI, having been re-called; is further Examined, as follows:

31782. *Chairman.*] You want to add something to your evidence?

Yes. I have one question to answer which my friend Mr. Isaac could not explain. I can answer about the women's trade. The women at the middlemen's shop work from eight to eight, but after eight the middlemen give them work home to do; they work in their own houses. I think that is done at night; when they leave the work at eight o'clock they give them some home work to do in their own houses.

31783. So that you mean that the law is practically broken; it is evaded in that way; that although the women do not work overtime in the shop they are compelled to work at home?

Yes, they work at home. I see them frequently carrying the work home, as many as six or eight coats to each girl or one woman; and it is rather too heavy, according to my idea, for any woman to carry so many coats home at night after a day's work.

31784. Do you mean that they are obliged to do it, or that they do it of their own choice to earn money?

The master compels them to do it. He says, "Well, I must have this work sent in to-morrow; if I do not send it in to-morrow I shall not have more work;" and then of course the girls take the work home and they get paid by piece at home, and that means certainly more work for the presser to do, and it drives the men to do more work.

31785. I understand you that the men are enabled to work long hours in the shop because the girls are compelled to do part of their work at home, and that enables the presser to be kept working late in the shop?

Yes, the girls work at home, and bring it in the morning, and then the presser has to work harder during the day, because the middleman goes to the man presser and says, "Look here; look at the pile of work here; you must work away and send this work in;" and he does not give him time to breathe; and there is one more thing I wish to tell you which Mr. Isaacs forgot. At the time of the strike of the men, the middlemen went actually round to the provision shops where the men deal and get their bit of provision during the week, and stopped them of their provisions by saying, "Now, you must not give any of those people credit because we shall not employ them; we shall let them all starve." That has been done by the middlemen of Leeds.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ARTHUR GOODWYN, is called in, and having been sworn; is Examined, as follows:

31786. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?

I am the Sanitary Inspector for the Jewish Board of Guardians, Devonshire-square, London.

31787. You were appointed by the Jewish Board of Guardians?

By the Jewish Board of Guardians.

31787. When

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Mr. GOODWYN.

[*Continued.*]

31788. When were you appointed ?
In May 1884.

31789. For any special reason ?

I think it was owing to a letter which appeared in the "Lancet" at that time about the condition of East London.

31790. What is your area ; what do you mean by East London ?

I go into the districts occupied by the Jewish poor ; that district embraces Whitechapel, Mile End, portions of Bethnal Green, adjoining the Whitechapel district, St. George's-in-the-East (that is the portion adjoining the Whitechapel district), and portions of the City also. It would extend from Houndsditch, as far say, as Devonshire-street, Mile End, going East, and take the Great Eastern for the northern boundary, and as far as the Ratcliffe Highway for the southern boundary.

31791. And you confine yourself to the Jewish poor ?

To houses occupied by Jewish people, but very often I find Christian people in these houses as well.

31792. And what are your duties ?

If I find a house in a bad condition, I communicate with the owner if I can get at him, or find out who he is. If he does not take steps to remedy the evil, I communicate with the authorities of his district ; that is only bringing under their notice those things which they can deal with. There are many things they have no power to deal with.

31793. What powers have you got to deal with sanitation ?

I have no power at all ; we are merely a charitable institution.

31794. Do you find any difficulty in getting access to the houses, and so on ?

None.

31795. You are not refused admission ?

No ; I have never been refused admission, so far.

31796. What have you to say as to the condition of these houses where work is carried on ?

Are you confining me to workshops ?

31797. Do you confine yourself to workshops ?

No, I go into these houses whether there are workshops on the premises or not.

31798. Can you divide your remarks between the workshops and the dwellings ; can you draw a distinction between the two in answering me ?

Certainly. I think we had better confine ourselves to the workshops ; the other would be a sanitary point in regard to the tenement houses.

31799. And what do you say as to the condition of those shops ?

They are in a deplorable state ; I can put it in that short term.

31800. You find them generally in a bad sanitary condition ?

Yes.

31801. In what respect ?

For instance, a workshop is erected on the area which was formerly the yard of the house, and, I suppose, for the sake of gain or otherwise, a workshop has been erected on that space. The walls are reeking with wet, and to hide that wet a little bit of thin match-lining is put up against it. The roof is constructed in such a manner that it leaks badly, and always will leak. The flooring, in many instances, is on the earth, which is not properly drained as it should be. In many cases the window-sashes are rotten, or the sashes of the skylight are rotten. In some cases, for the only outlet there is merely a little iron stove, very low, on the surface, with a four-inch pipe to carry off the smoke, no properly constructed chimney ; that is in some cases. Then I may say that there are other classes of workshops, that is among the better-class tailors who have

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Mr. GOODWYN.

[*Continued.*]

the houses to themselves, which I do not see any fault to find with at all, or they may not be tailors, they may be furriers or other branches of trade.

31802. As to the privy accommodation and drainage, and so on; in what state is that?

In 1884, when I went down to these places, there was no water supply to the privies in any case; in some cases the privies were practically inside the workshops, only partitioned off with a wall; but water supply has been put on since that.

31803. Lord *Clinton*.] Are you alluding to any particular case now?

No, not to any particular case.

31804. *Chairman*.] And was there sufficient privy accommodation, whatever it was, at that time for the number of people employed?

Not always.

31805. Was there any distinction in cases where men and women were working together, or were they obliged to use the same place?

Yes, that was if they could use it; but in many instances it was in such a condition that no one could use it.

31806. And as to ventilation and over-crowding?

I find that over-crowding exists at times when there is a rush of work, and at other times you may go there and find only a few at work. When they cannot get more people to work in the workshop (I mean that they have not the actual space they are allowed by law) they have put the girls in a room used as a bedroom, or a living-room, it may be; they work in the rooms of the house. I am speaking now of where a workshop is situated in the yard. I am speaking about a certain class of these people in the trade, the poorer men, the poor class of tradesmen, what I call the struggling class.

31807. Then shall I take it from you that, when you began in 1884, among the smaller class of shops, their general condition was very bad in all respects?

It was very bad.

31808. And has it improved since?

Yes, there is a great improvement; but you want to be continually getting at these places. The work that has been done has been what I term scamped; it has not been thoroughly done; and of course there is a fresh outbreak in a short time.

31809. Have you anything to say as to infectious diseases being carried by clothing made up in these places?

Rag-sorting is carried on in the basement of a model-dwelling. Say there are two families in that house; it is carried on in the basement; and the rags have got to be thrown on to the pavement, then rolled up the steps, and down the steps; and all this causes the place to be in a filthy state. I have in many cases, through the intervention of the authorities, got it abated. After a time somebody else takes the place and carries it on again; and so it goes on.

31810. What do you do if you find a shop in what you consider an unsanitary condition; to whom do you report?

The first thing is, I try and get hold of the landlord and communicate with him, and try and see what he will do; we give him time, and if he does not do anything we communicate with the local authority, that is the sanitary authority, that is if we can make out that the place is a nuisance; for instance, if there are broken floors. I will take the St. George's-in-the-East district, or Bethnal Green; they will immediately say they cannot deal with broken floors; but the filth is allowed to get under the floor and remain there because it cannot help but do so. I am speaking of the floor of a room now, not of a closet.

31811. When you say that you report to the authorities, do you mean that you report the case to the inspector of nuisances, or whom?

The case is sent in to the vestry.

31812. You

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[Continued.]

31812. You report directly to the vestry?

I do not; my committee do.

31813. I want to know the process; you send your report to a committee?

I put my report before the honorary secretary of my committee.

31814. And then your committee take action in the matter by communicating with the vestry?

Yes; with the vestry.

31815. And you have nothing to say to the medical officer of health or the inspector of nuisances yourself?

No; only in case the thing was urgent I should communicate with the medical officer of health if I could not get the honorary secretary of my committee to write; for instance, in the case of a drain being choked, and the place being flooded through it.

31816. Do you make an annual report to your committee?

I do.

31817. Have you got with you the last report you made?

That is the last report (*producing it*). That is a report signed by the secretary.

31818. This is the report of the Sanitary Committee?

Yes.

31819. I presume this is founded upon the report you made to the Sanitary Committee?

Yes.

31820. This is the last one, made in December 1888?

Yes. (*The Report was handed in, see Appendix I.*)

31821. And in cases of urgency you would communicate with the sanitary authority direct?

Direct.

31822. Or the medical officer of health; and you have done so?

I have done so in many instances with the sanitary officer of district.

31823. And have your communications been attended to?

In some cases; in others they are let go for a long time.

31824. Well, do you consider that your representations are properly attended to; that they are attended to as they should be by the local authority, or have you any complaint to make in that matter?

You ask me my opinion?

31825. Yes?

I think the things might be done a great deal sooner than they are. They are let go for a considerable time; in fact they are written to in many instances about these cases before any attention is paid to it.

31826. Have you ever had to report more than once about one place?

Dozens of times in many cases.

31827. Before they were attended to?

Yes; and even then the evil still exists, or the work is done in such a manner that there is a fresh outbreak or a fresh case.

31828. Do you ever communicate with the factory inspectors?

I do.

31829. On what grounds; on what points?

We have tried to bring into operation the clauses of the Factory Act as regards sanitation, so that they should communicate with the authorities when we could not get the authorities to move in the matter.

31830. And what effect have your representations had upon the factory inspectors?

(11.)

3 N 4

Some

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Mr. GOODWYN.

[*Continued.*]

Some of them have been done ; but it has taken time to move in the matter ; some of the cases have been remedied, but it has taken time to move in the matter in many cases.

31831. Then should I be correct in taking it from you that you think that both the local authorities and the factory inspectors might be a little more prompt in their action ?

As regards the factory inspector, he has no power to deal with it ; after he has communicated with the authority, I believe his power is ended.

31832. Then you think that the sanitary authorities are not quite as prompt and energetic as they ought to be ?

I do. I do not consider that they are energetic at all. I think, considering the cases that are brought under their notice, for instance, a choked drain, where the sewage from it goes over the door-sill and floods the room and lies in that condition for weeks, you cannot call their action prompt.

31833. Do cases come under your notice where clothing is being made up where children have got measles or scarlatina, or diseases of that kind ?

No. I think if I went to such houses they would try and hide it from me.

31834. Lord *Clinton*.] Do you think that the sanitary inspectors neglect their work, or that they have too much to do, and cannot attend to it ?

I think they have got a great deal too much to do, and that they are handicapped in many ways.

31835. You consider that there should be more of them ?

It is not only that there should be more of them, but there ought to be some system ; a man cannot do everything.

31836. And you think that they should have further powers ?

Further than that, I think they are handicapped by the vestries ; I do not think the inspectors can possibly do their duty.

31837. In what way ?

For instance, many members of these vestries own the property that these defects exist on, and you may write and write for months before anything is done ; and then after a time it is patched, and then there is a fresh outbreak a few months after.

31838. Do you mean that you think the sanitary inspectors fail to report things of this kind that they should report to the authorities ?

I do not know what they report ; I am only speaking of our own reports.

31839. You said something about members of the vestry owning these houses ; do the sanitary inspectors draw the attention of those owners to the insanitary arrangements ?

It would be so ; but with my committee the complaints go straight to the vestry clerk, and I suppose are read out at the meeting ; we save the inspector the trouble of doing it. It clears him of saying that he brought it under the notice of the vestry.

31840. I suppose the sanitary inspector can act without the orders of the vestry ?

I do not think he can make an order without an order from the vestry. I think he has to obtain the vestry's permission.

31841. Then, if you call his attention to something wanted in a house, he has to call the attention of the vestry to it, has he, before he can act ?

I do not think he always waits to act. In the case of a choked drain, he would go, I daresay, and serve a notice at once. A meeting of the vestry might not happen for a fortnight afterwards.

31842. Still you think that the sanitary inspectors require further powers ?

I think so.

31843. In what particular direction ; what do you suggest that they ought to have ?

I think that the vestry ought not to be the masters of the sanitary inspector.

31844. He

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[Continued.]

31844. He should not be appointed by the vestry, you mean?

He should be, in the same way as the relieving officer, under the Local Government Board; in such a position that, if he did his duty, he could not be discharged for doing his duty.

31845. You think that the sanitary inspector should be appointed by a Government Department?

I think it would be much better; a man should never have to be afraid of doing his duty.

31846. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Do you think the factory inspector would be able to carry out sanitary alterations that might be necessary, or do you think it would be better to put greater power in the hands of the sanitary inspector and make him more independent?

It is a question that wants thought.

31847. I mean which do you think, from your experience, would be likely to be in the best position to do the work; the factory inspector, whose duty it is to constantly supervise the workshop, or the sanitary inspector?

You see, the factory inspectors have such a large area that it would take a man six years to go thoroughly over his district and see the condition of the workshops.

31848. But he would be more likely to see it, would he not, than the sanitary inspector would?

That might be. He may go into the workshop and it may look all right outside, but that is not the main point.

31849. In what way do you mean?

Because if the workshop is lined with wood, and that wall behind the workshop is all reeking with wet, when the place is all closed, and the gas is going at night, it must affect the health of the workers in that workshop.

31850. But would he not perceive that by going in?

The thing is, what sort of men are appointed as the factory inspectors? It would want a man who knows something about the work. Then, again, you must have so many cubic feet of space. That has often amused me. I look round and say, "What about the cubic feet of space here? Look at the conditions of ventilation round this place." I will give you an example. Take workshops in rear of Nos. 9, 10, and 11, Fieldgate-street, Whitechapel; I am speaking from memory now, but I think there is about 7 feet 6 between the rear wall of the house and the front wall of the workshop, and they are of an immense height. The window frames are of iron, and in them are little windows about six inches square which you cannot open. For instance, we will say there is a bakehouse below; then we will say there is a cabinet-maker's above; or suppose a man goes in there and starts waterproof clothing, and then a tailor or cap-maker goes into the top room, what do the people suffer in the top workshop from the fumes of that waterproofing business? It must go through the cracks of the floor. Then, again, in a case like that, you have got to go through a narrow passage of the tenement house in the front to get to that workshop. The staircase is a winding one, 2 feet 3 in the extreme width; between the house and workshop they have balconies across, and they have boarded them up to prevent the people throwing the filth down into area below. When we communicated with the authorities in this case there was only one closet; they built extra closets one over the other right up, which took away what space there was there. The fittings put in there were all bad, second-hand piping; the consequence was they were always broken, and the water from them was always leaking. Those houses were erected since 1884, when the Building Act was amended.

31851. Now, would the sanitary inspector in the course of the performance of his duty go into a building like that and become conversant with that state of things, or would he naturally wait until somebody informed him of it?

I do not know what he would do. I believe the law states that sanitary

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Mr. GOODWYN.

[Continued.]

inspectors shall go round their district periodically and visit it; but the thing is, is it done?

31852. That is what I am asking you?

I cannot say what they do. I know when I went into the Whitechapel District in 1884 (I think that is a very good example), out of 1,747 houses I went into, I found 1,621 without any water supply to the closet. There may have been a few in Bethnal Green, St. George's-in-the-East, and Mile End out of that number, but the greater proportion were in the Whitechapel District.

31853. Has that state of things since improved?

Last year I only found 159 houses without a water-supply closet out of 1,468.

31854. *Chairman.*] You have been giving us the figures for 1884?

Yes. In 1884 I found, out of 1,747 houses I visited, that 1,621 were without a water supply for the closets.

31855. *Lord Monkswell.*] Then you mean to say that in your opinion the vestry is not a good sanitary authority?

The figures speak for themselves.

31856. You would have it altered; would you prefer putting the board of guardians in the place of the vestry?

Which board of guardians?

31857. Any board of guardians. I do not mean the Jewish Board of Guardians, but an elected board of guardians. I will put it in another way: would you rather have the sanitary authority some sort of body who are under a Government Department?

I cannot go into that matter. What I was meaning just now was, that if the sanitary inspectors of the districts were made responsible for their districts, the same as the policemen are in the city of New York; if there were proper men appointed, paid as they should be, and held responsible for their district, and they could not be discharged except through neglect of duty, or something like that, things would be much better.

31858. *Chairman.*] What you object to, I think, is that the sanitary authorities should be the servants of people who may be interested in the property?

The sanitary inspectors. I cannot prove what I would like to say, and I do not like to make a statement which I cannot prove, because it will not, perhaps, do; I might be pulled over the coals about it.

31859. *Lord Clinton.*] I think you said you thought it would be best that the sanitary inspectors should be appointed directly by a Government Department?

Yes; to be independent of the vestries altogether.

31860. *Earl of Aberdeen.*] Would the London County Council be a body to which you would entrust the appointment?

Most of the members of the vestries got into the London County Council; we shall not be any better off with that. It takes a great deal of trouble to get the vestry to move to abate a nuisance. I know that from private experience, independent of this point.

31861. *Lord Monkswell.*] Then would you put the sanitary inspectors directly under the Local Government Board, as officers of the Local Government Board, without the intervention of the vestry at all?

Yes; but then these men must be made responsible for their districts.

31862. The Local Government Board would make them responsible for their district; they would have the power of discharging them?

I think that would be the better arrangement.

31863. Your opinion is that the sanitary inspectors should be immediately under some Government Department?

Yes.

31864. *Chairman.*]

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[Continued.]

31864. *Chairman.*] Is there anything you would like to add to what you have told the Committee?

I am speaking of the lower class of Jewish people who have these workshops; I am not speaking of the better-class men, such as those who live in many houses in Princess-street or Great Prescott-street; in the workshops there I do not think there is as much to be found fault with; but with regard to these small places, I do not think a workshop should exist in a house occupied by five or six families, or I will say three. Further, the workshops should not be allowed to be built as they are doing now on the area which was formerly the yard; they are building them in Mile End and other portions, bringing them right out against the rear walls of the house, level with the ceilings of the ground-floor rooms; there is practically no yard; there are two or three families living in the house besides the man that has the workshop, and they put the pail (which serves instead of the dustbin) on the roof of the workshop; the pail is only emptied once a week in many instances, which is not sufficient for the number of families, consequently a large pile of refuse is thrown down alongside the pail immediately adjoining the skylight of this workshop. In many cases they have put the closet in the first instance in the basement; but when I have seen that I have tried to stop it, and have done so in many cases; and then they have put the closet on the top of the roof of the workshop. It is better than below, but still it is not a proper place for a closet.

31865. Is there anything more you wish to tell the Committee?

Nothing else.

31866. Did you give us the number of workshops which you visited in a year?

I cannot give you the number of workshops, because I have not kept an account of them, but if I go into a place like Plumbers-row in Mile End Old Town, out of 53 or 54 houses, I might say 40 or 45 of them have got workshops.

31867. You do not draw any distinction in the report between houses and workshops.

No.

31868. Can you tell us at all what proportion the shops would bear to houses in this report?

I should say before the work is carried on they may not have workshops, but they use a room as a workshop in half the houses; there is work of some sort carried on in half those houses I visit.

31869. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Do you think that the defective sanitary arrangements arise more in the cases of workshops than they do in the cases of dwelling-houses.

I cannot give you a proportion, but in a large number of cases nuisances arise in these houses where the workshops exist because the tenants will not clean after the workpeople. The closet floors are in many cases of wood, and, of course, they become saturated, and become a nuisance at once.

31870. What I meant was, do you think that the unsanitary conditions arise in a great many instances from the fact that the premises are used as workshops, and not from causes which would exist if they were only used as dwelling-houses?

If they are only used as dwelling-houses they may become a nuisance through being overcrowded.

31871. You think the unsanitary conditions would be just as likely to exist if the houses were only used as dwelling-houses?

Yes, in many cases.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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MR. GEORGE P. BATE, M.D., is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

31872. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you ?

I am Medical Officer of Health for St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green ; and also a Certifying Factory Surgeon.

31873. What is your district ?

My sanitary district comprises the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green. My factory district is very large, and extends from Aldersgate-street on the west to Bow Bridge on the east. It is bounded by Whitechapel-road on one side, and by the Bethnal Green-road on the other ; so that it is a very narrow district but a very long one, except the City portion, which is bounded by Old-street on the north, and Cheapside and King William-street on the south.

31874. How long have you occupied these positions ?

I have not been certifying surgeon very long, but I have been medical officer of health for about 14 years.

31875. In the same district all that time ?

Yes.

31876. Could you tell us shortly your duties and powers in both those capacities ?

As medical officer of health my duties are to advise the sanitary authority upon all points on which my advice is sought ; to make certain periodical inspections of slaughter-houses, cow-houses, and bake-houses, and lodging-houses and offensive trades, and to visit all cases of infectious disease ; to inquire into the origin of any epidemic, and to give such advice as may be necessary to prevent the spread of that epidemic ; I have also to report upon any sanitary matter that I may be called on to make a report upon ; to advise the sanitary authority generally, and to place myself at the service of the sanitary authority as they may require ; and to advise the sanitary inspectors also when they seek my advice. They come to me frequently, though they are not under my control.

31877. Are the sanitary inspectors not under the control of the medical officer of health ?

In my district they are not under my control, excepting so far as infectious diseases are concerned.

31878. And as certifying surgeon, what are your duties ?

As certifying surgeon I have to visit, when called upon, factories where young persons or children are employed. I have to examine those young persons and children, and to certify as to their general health and fitness for the particular kind of work in that particular factory, and that they are able to work the number of hours allowed by law ; and I have also to inspect the evidence which is produced to me of age, and to enter in a register the particulars as to the age of the young person or child ; and I have also to report, when called upon, upon any accidents that may occur in factories and workshops ; these I report to the Home Office.

31879. Are many complaints made to you as to the sanitary condition of workshops in your district ?

We do not get many complaints, but we see cases of defective sanitation in workshops ; a great many, I may say.

31880. Have you read any of the evidence that has been given before this Committee ?

I have read Mr. Lakeman's evidence, and Mr. Bowling's evidence.

31881. Have you heard the evidence of the last witness ?

I have heard the evidence of the last witness.

31882. Was that within your district ?

Some portion of it.

31883. Do

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[Continued.]

31883. Do you agree, generally, with what he said ?

I agree generally ; I have no doubt that he is perfectly correct ; and I acknowledge that there is very great difficulty in getting work done.

31884. Do you think, generally, the condition of the smaller shops is unsatisfactory ?

Extremely unsatisfactory.

31885. And do you think also that you have difficulty in getting them put into proper condition ?

I think that is so, principally because they are not inspected regularly ; there is, practically, no inspection of these domestic workshops.

31886. Is it not the duty of the sanitary inspector to inspect them ?

Yes, but the Sanitary Department is undermanned. In my district we have a population of about 130,000, and about 18,000 houses, and we have two inspectors ; and my district covers an area of about 750 acres. Of course there should be periodical inspection, that is to say, every house in the parish should be visited at least once a year by a sanitary inspector, but that with the present staff would be utterly impossible. In my district there is no house-to-house visitation ; we simply attend to complaints as we receive them, and this completely fills up the time of the two inspectors.

31887. Then you think that additional inspection is necessary ?

It is very much required I think.

31888. Then as to the alleged difficulty of getting the vestry to move in the matter, what have you to say ?

Complaints are taken in the order in which they are received, unless the case is of extreme urgency, and then it is attended to at once. Should I tell you the method of procedure as directed by the Nuisances Removal Act ?

31889. Yes ?

Supposing a complaint is received by letter (very often by anonymous letter) at the Sanitary Department, say on Monday morning, the inspector puts it on his notes and visits the place as soon as he can. Then it is his duty, if he finds a nuisance existing, to report it to the sanitary committee. That committee meets once a week. He then gets authority from the committee to serve a notice. The landlord collects his rent once a week, that is generally on the Monday ; and if that notice is served on the Tuesday he may not get it till the following Monday, because the notices are required by the Act to be served upon the premises, not upon the residence of the owner, so that there is delay there. That notice requires the landlord of the premises to do the necessary repairs, say within a fortnight ; or if it is a case of choked drain, or anything of that sort, he will get a notice to do the necessary repairs forthwith ; but say the landlord gets a fortnight's time in which to do the work, then it is the inspector's duty to visit that place and see if his notice has been carried out. But very often he has not time to get round in a fortnight ; he cannot get round till three weeks perhaps. He visits the place and finds nothing has been done. He again reports the matter to the sanitary committee, and they give him authority to take out a summons. A summons is taken out, and it is returnable perhaps a fortnight or three weeks hence ; and it is served by the officer of the police court upon the premises where the default has happened. Very often we find that no commencement of work is made until the actual day of the hearing of the summons ; then, perhaps, we find work has commenced ; we get the matter adjourned at the police court ; but do not withdraw the summons till the requirements of the notice are carried out to our satisfaction ; but in many instances the owner will not have made any commencement by the time of the hearing of the summons. Then the matter is heard by the magistrate, usually at Worship-street, and the magistrate makes an order for the necessary work to be completed, giving a certain number of days, seven days, 14 days, or a month in some cases, according to the amount of the work to be done ; then at the termination of that period which is given by the magistrate, the sanitary inspector again visits ; he may even then find that nothing has been done he again reports the matter to his sanitary authority, and the sanitary authority

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then authorises him to take out a summons for penalties. He has again to go to the magistrate at Worship-street, and the magistrate orders penalties at so much per day for the time that has elapsed since the expiration of the order till the date at which the summons for penalties has been taken out. It does not very often happen that we have to take out summonses for penalties, but it does happen.

31890. And the whole process takes up a good deal of time?

It takes a long time; a very long time.

31891. And, in your opinion, is too cumbersome?

It is cumbersome, and certainly too much time is taken up. I am of opinion that sanitary inspectors should be authorised to serve notices (in cases of nuisance), upon which legal proceedings could be grounded, the notice should be examined and countersigned by the medical officer of health before service, and should require the person in default, either to execute the necessary works, to abate the nuisance within a given period, or to show cause before the vestry for not doing so. At the expiration of the time fixed the vestry should have power (without getting a preliminary order) to take out a summons for penalties for disobedience to the notice, returnable before a magistrate, who should inflict a fine if the allegations of the vestry were proved to his satisfaction. No injustice could be inflicted: the vestry would be a court of appeal from the action of the officers, and the magistrate could be again appealed to against arbitrary action on the part of the vestries.

31892. Do you think it would be better that the sanitary inspector should be under an imperial department, and not under the local authority at all?

I do not think that would make very much difference. I think they certainly ought in every instance to be under the control of the medical officer of health; they are not so except in some instances.

31893. How is it they are under his control in some instances and not in others?

The law does not place the sanitary inspectors under the control of the medical officer of health, except so far as is ordered by the particular board under which they work. The board have power to place the inspectors under the orders of the medical officer of health, and in some instances they do so, but not invariably.

31894. Then in your case they do not place the sanitary inspector under the control of the medical officer of health?

They do not, except with regard to the inspection of cases of infectious diseases.

31895. What action can you take if they do not do their duty?

None at all; they report to the sanitary committee, and they are under the orders of the sanitary committee.

31896. And you think that ought to be altered?

I am certain it should be altered.

31897. Have you drawn up any report upon the subject of sanitary inspection?

Some three or four years ago I brought before my sanitary authority the absolute necessity, in my opinion, for a better sanitary organisation in the district, and I wrote to every medical officer of health in the metropolis, and sent each medical officer a form for him to fill up; and upon that I based a report which I presented to my vestry upon the sanitary organisation of the metropolis. I found that there was very great variation. In some districts it goes so far that the medical officer of health has the power to actually appoint and discharge his nuisance inspector; in other instances, as in mine, he has no power at all over him. It stands to reason that, if the nuisance inspector has to report daily to the medical officer of health, and is under his orders, a great deal more work will be done than if he has to report, say only weekly or fortnightly, to a committee.

31898. It has been stated before the Committee several times that infectious diseases are spread by clothing being made up in rooms where there are children who have small-pox, or measles, or scarlatina?

That is within my experience.

31899. You

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31899. You think that is so?
I am sure it is.

31900. To a large extent?

I do not say to a large extent, but I am certain that infectious diseases are spread thereby. It is within my own knowledge, not so much as a medical officer of health, but as a private practitioner. I have visited patients, not so much latterly, but years ago, suffering from small-pox and scarlet fever in rooms where half-finished garments were used to cover up and keep the patient warm. Since I have been a medical officer of health I do not get called to attend professionally so many cases of infectious diseases; many people do not like a "sanitary doctor."

31901. Does one material convey infection more readily than another?

Some materials are more absorbent than others; but some lend themselves to disinfection much better than others. Woollen goods can only be disinfected by a very expensive apparatus such as the high-pressure steam disinfector; that is the only apparatus which will effectively disinfect woollen goods without damage to the article, and it is very expensive, whereas linen and cotton goods can be effectually disinfected by being boiled.

31902. These cases that did come before your notice came before your notice, I understand you to say, because you were called in to attend the sick people?

Exactly so.

31903. Unless some medical officer had been called in the cases would not have been known at all?

No, I have no doubt that the goods would have been simply sent in to the employer, and nothing said about their having been exposed to infection.

31904. Is there any power in anybody to stop the work in such cases?

The power exists to a limited extent; any article which is infected in that way can be ordered to be disinfected by the authority to the satisfaction of the medical officer of health. (Sanitary Act 1866, Section 38.)

31905. You could not put a stop to work being carried on under such conditions?

You could put a stop to work being carried out of the place without previous disinfection, and you could inform the employer, and he certainly would not receive it if he knew it came out of an infected house. Of course your Lordship is aware of the Bill before the House of Commons for the notification of infectious diseases. That I have no doubt, if it becomes law, will stop a good deal of this; I am sure a very great improvement will follow.

31906. In your private capacity have you much experience of these small workshops?

I see a good deal of them. Those that are built are very often small lean-to sheds in yards, not constructed for the purpose to which they are applied; utterly insufficient as to cubic space and ventilation, and not at all proper for the purpose to which they are put. Then again I often see people having one room in which they eat, drink, sleep, and work, and where the conditions are anything but what they should be, three or four girls working at sewing-machines in what is really a bedroom, but if the sanitary inspector had time to do it, all these could be dealt with under Section 19 of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

31907. In many instances the conditions are injurious to health you consider?

In many instances they are.

31908. As to consumption, is it the case that consumption is spread by the fact that while persons are suffering from consumption work is carried on in the rooms where they are, those rooms being deficient in ventilation?

Do you mean actual communication of tubercular consumption from one person to another?

31909. Yes?

That is rather a question under discussion just now. I do not consider that the point is proved that such is the case; but I am certain that a person who has any tendency to lung trouble of that kind would have that condition developed by working in many such rooms as I have seen persons working in.

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31910. Lord *Clinton*.] I think you said that you thought the sanitary inspector should be under the medical officer of health?

That is my opinion.

31911. It is not so in your case?

It is not.

31912. If that were so, if it came to your knowledge that there was a case of infectious disease in one of these houses, you could give notice of the fact to the sanitary inspector?

I do that now.

31913. But they are not bound to attend to your notification, as I understand you, in your district?

They always do, and they report to me all cases of infectious disease of which they receive notification, so that I can visit them.

31914. And then you think that the sanitary inspector should serve his notice without the intervention of the sanitary committee?

Yes, he should have power to do that; and, as a matter of fact, this is done now, but it is illegal, and no action can be taken upon such a notice in a court of law. If there is a case requiring it, we have a regulation by my vestry, that the inspector may go to the chairman and one other member of the committee in a case of urgency and get the necessary authorization. Of course that is a little cumbersome.

31915. Then I think you said that the notice now was served not on the landlord personally, but on the premises?

The law requires that. If the owner of the premises lives beyond a certain distance from London, it is legal to send that notice by post in a registered letter to his known address. I think the service should be dual; a notice left on the premises and another notice posted. I think in every instance a copy of the notice should be posted to the residence of the owner if known, and a formal notice also left on the premises. That would very much increase the labour of clerking; still it would be much better.

31916. It would insure the landlord getting the notice?

Yes; they often make it an excuse now, "I never received the notice; I did not know anything about this." You may say it is the landlord's duty to ascertain the condition of his premises; but very often they do not. But with respect to getting work done quickly, I ought to have said that if the magistrate's order be disobeyed it is within the power of the nuisance authorities, if they choose, to do the work themselves instead of obtaining an order for penalties, and then they can get an order from the magistrate for the cost of the necessary alterations and repairs. But I may say that that is practically never done; vestries object very much to that. Once or twice they have gone to work in a certain way and done certain things, and not been able to get paid for it afterwards.

31917. But could they do it if the landlord objects?

They have power to do it if the landlord neglects to obey the order of the magistrate.

31918. Still a delay takes place before that power can be put in force?

You might give the landlords a week's notice, and the sanitary authority then have power.

31919. *Chairman*.] Do you mean that the sanitary inspectors have power to order a thing to be done, but that sometimes they have not been able to recover because the vestry disapproved, and so the expense has been thrown upon the inspector?

No, I have never known that happen; I know a case in Shoreditch where the inspector served a notice for certain alterations to be made, and the owner did not make them; but the vestry did them, and the case was brought up before the court, and owing to some informality in serving the notice in the first instance, the whole cost of that was thrown upon the vestry.

31920. And therefore vestries are afraid of doing it?

My vestry will not do it at all; they consistently decline doing it.

31921. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] Would you give a sanitary inspector power to require work to be done without any reference to his committee at all.

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To give a mere notification that certain nuisances exist, and that he must remedy them; it would give the owner notice; for instance, supposing say, that a closet has no water supply, it would notify to him that such is the fact and that he must proceed to remedy it; giving him power to appeal against that notification to the sanitary committee if he thought fit, telling him when the next meeting would be.

31922. And the sanitary inspector would specify what sanitary improvements he required done?

Yes, or you could make it that he should require the authorisation of the medical officer of health before he did that.

31923. I suppose the usual thing is to give the owner a notice of nuisance, and that it must immediately be abated, without specifying what particular work is necessary?

That is so in some cases; but it is usual to specify in general terms what is required to be done, such as "clear, amend, and make good the drainage;" "properly pave the yard;" "remove causes of dampness;" "properly trap sinks," &c.

31924. You have heard the evidence of the last witness in which he said that in a good many cases the abatement of the nuisance was of a very temporary kind, and that it only led to another nuisance?

That is my experience; owners very often do the work in such a scamping way that in a very few weeks the place is as bad as it was before; they will not spend money on it.

31925. You said before that as a rule the mere notice of a nuisance, and requirement to abate that nuisance was sufficient; that does not seem quite to agree with the evidence you are now giving?

The sanitary Acts do not allow you to lay down a regular builder's specification of what shall be done. You call upon them to abate the nuisance; then the magistrate can order certain things to be done; I do not think the sanitary inspectors can legally, though they often do so.

31926. Should you think it advisable that they should be able to do so?

Subject to some sort of appeal; if an owner thought he was hardly used, power to appeal to the next meeting of the sanitary committee; and that they should simply deal with cases of that kind where the order of the inspector was disputed.

31927. Do you mean that it would be better, instead of allowing the landlord to do what he likes, and then the sanitary inspector summoning him before the magistrate to get him to do something else, that the sanitary inspector should have power to lay down in the first instance what works ought to be done for the abatement of the nuisance, giving the landlord the power of appealing if he thought they were unnecessarily onerous?

Not always, because the sanitary inspector might have certain fads; he might fancy one particular kind of apparatus, Mr. Jones's closet pan or Mr. Somebody else's trap, or particular kind of paving, and he might stipulate that that alone should be done; whereas if the landlord puts a sufficient trap or closet, or paving, and such as would satisfy, say the medical officer, then that should be considered sufficient.

31928. So as to satisfy the medical officer?

To satisfy the medical officer.

31929. But would not that same difficulty arise rather; the medical officer might not be satisfied unless a particular fad was being carried out?

I would not give him authority to specify a particular make of sanitary apparatus or material. For instance, if the sanitary inspector had a fancy for concrete paving, and the owner fancied York paving, that should be considered sufficient; supposing he says, for instance, that a yard shall be paved with some impervious material, that should be sufficient without specifying the particular kind.

31930. But what happens in the present instance is this, as I understand; the complaint is that in the case of a drain, say, the drain is stopped, and the landlord takes it up and abates the nuisance, but, at the same time, leaves the

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drain in such a state that it is bound to fill up again in a few weeks or in a few months ; now what could the sanitary inspector do in that case ?

If he found the drain manifestly defective and badly laid he has now power by order of the vestry to call upon the owner to lay the drain in a sufficient manner and proper form.

31931. He has to summon him first ; he could not give him notice to do that ?

He would give him notice to do that, and then if he disobeyed the notice he would be summoned for not doing it.

31932. The notices do specify then the work that is to be done ?

They do generally, not particularly ; you cannot specify a particular kind of pipe, for instance.

31933. He would specify that that drain must be taken up, and relaid ?

Yes, they do that.

31934. *Chairman.*] You have had a large practice in that part of London . would you say, generally speaking, that the conditions under which these people work in their own rooms, or in the smaller class of workshops are improving or the reverse ?

They are varying a little bit, that is to say, certain districts that were residential when I first came into Bethnal Green, are now becoming districts of workshops where people live ; and where there was formerly a house with one family, now there is a family in each two rooms we will say, and many of the rooms are used as workshops ; so that actually what is called the tenement system is extending in that way. And these rooms are often not suitable for the purposes to which they are applied. I should very much like to see the factory system everywhere extended, and the domestic workshops very much diminished. You cannot prevent, for instance, a dressmaker doing her work in her own house ; there must be domestic workshops to a certain extent ; but they might be much diminished.

31935. Have you anything else you would like to suggest ?

I think one of your Lordships was asking Mr. Goodwin who he thought would be the proper person to inspect ; whether the sanitary inspector or the factory inspector. The factory inspectors, of course, in their own department are very much better than the sanitary inspectors ; and I certainly consider that the sanitary inspectors are much better in their department than the factory inspectors. I think that the sanitary portion of the factories should be left to the sanitary inspectors, and the working portion to the factory inspectors ; but you must very largely increase the number of sanitary inspectors if you want any real improvement. And, moreover, periodical inspection should be compulsory instead of, as it is now, permissive ; but then you must be prepared to go to a very considerable expense, and very largely increase your staff if you mean to do that.

31936. And you consider that the workshops are frequently placed in places not suitable for them ?

Very often, blocking out the light and ventilation of the rooms at the back of the house.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. JAMES WOONTON, is called in ; and, having been sworn,
is Examined, as follows :

31937. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your position ?

Inspector of Nuisances to the Vestry of St. George's in the East.

31938. How long have you occupied that position ?

I have occupied the position of chief for two-and-a-half years, and of assistant or nine years prior.

31939. And

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31939. And what are your duties ?

My duties are generally to attend to all the complaints that are entered, to deal with all cases as to disinfection and infectious diseases, and to deal with all matters in the police court summonses, which are a very large number in our districts ; and I am also inspector under the Food and Drugs Act ; and as far as time will permit I have to make a systematic inspection of the houses in the district ; and, of course, to take steps to secure the abatement of any nuisance that I may find.

31940. Will you tell the Committee what your district comprises ; how many houses, the population, and so on ?

Speaking in round numbers there are about 6,000 inhabited houses, independent of a large area of the dock, with which I have nothing to do. The population it is very difficult to say ; in 1861 it was 49,000 according to the census ; in 1871 it was 48,000 ; in 1881 it was 47,000 ; but since the census of 1881 there have been a great many changes ; a great number of places have been pulled down and others rebuilt ; so that it is impossible almost to say what the present population is ; in all probability it is about 48,000.

31941. Six thousand inhabited houses, you say ?

About 6,000 inhabited houses, with an average of eight per house, roughly.

31942. Would many of them be used as workshops ?

In one portion only of the parish ; just making a rough guess, I should say there would be in that portion about 1,400 houses, and out of that I should think in all probability there are about 200 workshops and workplaces that are used in that way.

31943. Two hundred only in the whole district ?

That is all. You see they are mainly located in one particular district, that is the north-western portion of the parish immediately adjoining Whitechapel.

31944. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Goodwin ?

Yes.

31945. That would apply to a portion of your district ?

Yes, the portion I speak of is the portion of which he speaks ; he does not extend to the whole of my parish ; but the portions beyond have very few workshops.

31946. Do you agree generally with what he said as to the condition of the shops and tenements ?

Generally ; but I have never received any complaint from him as to the unsanitary condition of any workshop.

31947. You have an assistant ?

I have one assistant.

31948. You and one assistant have to do the whole of the work ?

The whole of the work ; some amount of my time is taken up in court business, which I have to carry out the whole of. I might say that during last year, with all I could possibly do, the largest number of houses I could visit in one year was 1,000 ; that is from house to house.

31949. Do you have many complaints sent into you ?

Well, we average about 25 a week only of complaints that are sent in ; but then there are a large number of cases that come under my own immediate notice when I am moving about the parish.

31950. As to these complaints what is the course you pursue ?

I report everything to my Board direct ; and from them I have instructions to take proceedings. The process is different according to the nature of the nuisance. If it is a matter that can be dealt with under the Metropolis Local Management Act, which refers to drainage and water-closets, a notice is served under that Act. If it is as to anything that has to be dealt with under the Nuisance Removal Act, then it is dealt with under that Act. Then the process is different. If at the next meeting of the Board I report that the works had

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not been carried out, in the one case the order is one for the vestry workmen to carry out the work, and the cost is charged upon the man. Under the Metropolis Management Act, there is an alternative under which I may sue for penalties for non-compliance with the order of the vestry. There are penalties for non-compliance with the order of the vestry as to drainage and water supply to closets. Ordinarily in the case of water supply to closets the matter is put into the hands of the vestry's contractor, and the work is carried out, and the cost charged upon the owner; and if the owner neglects to pay I have to collect the rent of the house until such time as the amount is paid. Under the Nuisance Removal Act I have instructions to serve a second notice, and if that is not complied with, at a meeting of the sanitary committee I report, and the sanitary committee instruct me then to take out a summons before the magistrate. Ordinarily I get my summonses returned within 10 days.

31951. When you said just now that you report direct to your board, did you mean the sanitary committee?

The board; I report all the cases that come under my notice direct to the board at each of its meetings. I only deal with the sanitary committee in case of non-compliance with notices under the Nuisance Removal Act. I might mention that the practice in the various districts varies considerably.

31952. Have you held a similar position in other districts in London?

No, I was born in the parish, and have lived there all my lifetime, and so I have an intimate acquaintance with it.

31953. I think you said that last year your average complaints would be 25 a week?

That is complaints brought to the vestry.

31954. Have you had complaints with respect to the same place more than once?

Very frequently.

31955. More than once in the same year?

Yes.

31956. Does that mean that the alterations or repairs were insufficient?

In most cases I refer to stoppages of drains or closets. Stopped closets are very common things indeed; it arises from the careless and indifferent habits of the tenants more than from any default on the part of the owner.

31957. What, in your opinion, is the general sanitary condition of these small workshops in your district?

As has been mentioned by other witnesses, the construction of them where they are workshops built outside is such as is calculated to prevent any circulation of air. As has been stated, these workshops are built in the back yard; they often come within five or six feet of the back wall of the house; and consequently there can be no proper circulation of fresh air. They are built usually with sky-lights; sometimes these are made moveable, and in very warm weather they will perhaps raise them. All the year round there are large coke fires in these workshops; the temperature of the place is always exceedingly high, both in winter and summer, and consequently the vapour of coke (which they always use because it is mostly a large open fire) pervades the whole of the atmosphere of these work-rooms. As to overcrowding in the work rooms, it is exceedingly difficult to deal with that, because it only occurs at certain times when they are exceedingly busy. I have visited many of these places it might be five or six times, and seen no evidence of overcrowding whatever, and perhaps upon my next visit I might find the place very much overcrowded.

31958. Are you in any way under the direction of the medical officer of health?

No, I am practically under the board; but the medical officer occupies a somewhat similar position in my district to that which Dr. Bate occupies in Bethnal-green; he does not exercise any control, but I always recognise him as my

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my superior officer, and anything that he requires to be done I take as an order from him. He frequently receives instructions from the board to visit certain places where it is considered necessary; I usually accompany him, or under his direction I should do so. Anything that he wanted done I should consider as an order from him.

31959. You mean that you would take it from him without its coming through the board?

Yes, I should take it that he would really be in a position to give me an order to do anything that might be required; but as a matter of practice there is so very little as to which it is necessary for him to give anything in the shape of an order.

31960. You are appointed by the board?

By the board.

31961. And are liable to be dismissed by the board?

I would be liable to be dismissed by the board.

31962. When you say that the practice varies in different districts, in what way does it vary?

In many cases a medical officer is appointed who devotes the whole of his time to the duties of his office and has no private practice. There he really becomes the chief sanitary inspector, and he exercises a control over his inspectors, and the inspectors do not report to the board or to the committee, but he does.

31963. Then would the inspectors be appointed by him, and liable to dismissal by him?

I am not aware of any case in any part of the metropolis where the inspector is appointed by the medical officer.

31964. The board is the master of the inspector in all cases?

It is impossible for an inspector to carry out his duties unless appointed under the seal of the board.

31965. Lord Clinton.] You are not able to serve notices, are you, without the leave of your board?

I might tell your Lordships that every inspector in London does it; we know it is illegal, but, as we are anxious to secure the abatement of nuisances, we trade upon the ignorance of the public.

31966. And then you report to your board?

I report everything to my board.

31967. And you think that is the general practice?

That is the general practice.

31968. There is no unnecessary delay in serving notices?

Very frequently, in one-half of the notices where we report to our board, the nuisances are removed before the board meet.

31969. Chairman.] How often do the board meet?

Fortnightly. I might mention that the present state of the law is exceedingly unsatisfactory, so far as the powers of the inspector to serve notices are concerned. In the matter of a stopped drain, to serve a legal notice it is necessary that there should be an order of the board, signed by the chairman, before any proceedings could be founded upon it. (In the case that was mentioned by Dr. Bate in Shoreditch the informality was that the notice was served without the order of the board; that it was the action of a sub-committee which is not recognised.) Then I would have to wait till the next meeting of the board before I could take any further proceedings to procure an abatement of it. Upon the second occasion an order would be signed by the chairman to serve a copy of this order that is now made. The order then made is that within 24 hours from the service of the copy of it the vestry shall proceed to do the work. At the expiration of that time the matter will be placed either in the hands of the vestry's workmen, if they have workmen to do that particular

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work, or of any contractor to carry out the particular work. In my district that method is carried out, and frequently I consult the chairman of the sanitary committee or of the board upon a matter of urgency, such as a stopped drain, and serve an informal notice, and, as a matter of urgency, we step in and do the work, and run the risk whether we can recover the cost or not.

31970. Do you generally recover the cost?

Yes, I have never failed.

31971. Lord *Clinton*.] You think that the law, as regards the serving of notices, requires simplification?

I consider that it is as bad as it can be. If it was framed for the purpose of obstructing the removal of a nuisance I do not think it could have been more ingeniously framed than it is.

31972. What do you suggest as an improvement?

That the inspector of nuisances should be empowered to serve a notice upon which he might ground proceedings; that he should report in all cases to the board, and that the board should confirm the action taken by him; and that then it should be possible to carry that matter into a court of law.

31973. Is the office of inspector of nuisances the same as sanitary inspector? —Yes, the one is under the one Act, and the other under the other; the inspector of nuisances is under the Metropolis Local Management Act, and the sanitary inspector is under the Sanitary Act.

31974. Lord *Monkswell*.] When you talk of your board you mean the vestry? The vestry.

31975. *Chairman*.] Have you any other suggestion to make?

Yes, I should suggest as to all places where there are workshops and work-rooms that they should be placed under the factory inspector, and that the whole of the sanitary conditions surrounding them should also be placed under him. That would involve an increase of the present factory inspectors of something like ten or twelvefold. Take for instance my own district; it would require one factory inspector of these places. To bring them under proper supervision, and keep proper conditions attached to them, means a daily inspection. The time at my disposal is utterly inadequate for dealing, and I have never attempted, and my predecessors never attempted to deal, with the systematic inspection of workshops.

31976. Do you think that the sanitary state of the home workshops, in fact, should be taken out of the control of the local authorities and put into the hands of the factory inspectors?

Yes; providing there were sufficient of them. If more factory inspectors were not appointed it had better be left as it is.

31977. Have you anything else to say to the Committee?

I might mention a matter referring to my own district, that our practice varies from that of the last witness. Wherever we possibly can we serve a notice upon the owner.

31978. Not upon the premises?

Not upon the premises; and we find that to be the best method.

31979. More expeditious?

Yes.

31980. Lord *Clinton*.] Is it because it is the law that you serve the notice upon the owner?

The law is a little obscure; it says that if the owner is within a certain distance it may be served by registered post; but as a matter of practice, I think, during the last year I took 61 cases into the Thames Police Court, and in all those cases notices were served upon the owner at his residence, either by hand, if it could be served by hand (which was always accepted as a good service) or by registered post if it was over a distance that one might send it.

31981. But

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Mr. WOONTON.

[Continued.]

31981. But the original notice I mean of the existence of the nuisance?

That is served upon the owner; if we can possibly serve it at the residence of the owner, either by hand or by registered post, it is done, in preference to leaving it on the premises; because in some cases it may be that the landlord will not come for a month; that if one left the notice there just after he had been, it would be nearly a month before he got it, and he could say that he had not received the notice, though that would not be taken as an excuse in a court. In other cases they call weekly for the rent, say on Monday, and we might call on the day after they did, and the notice would remain there till the next Monday. So that we always keep a record, as far as it is in my power, of the names and residences of the owners of the houses throughout the district.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

THE HONOURABLE EDWARD PEIRSON THESIGER, C.B.;
further Examined.

31982. *Chairman.*] HAVE you asked any other witness to attend to-day?

I summoned Mr. Battram, the sanitary inspector for the Whitechapel district, to attend, and I received the following letter this morning:—

“ Office of the Board of Works, Whitechapel District,
“ 15, Great Alie-street, Whitechapel,

“ Sir,

“ 10 July 1889.

“ I am directed by Mr. Loane, the medical officer of health, to say
“ that Mr. Battram will be unable to attend the Select Committee on the
“ Sweating System to-morrow on account of illness; he is unable to leave
“ his room.

“ I am, &c.

(signed) “ *Thos. P. Wrack.*”

On receipt of that this morning I telegraphed to Mr. Wrack, whom I believe to be assistant or co-sanitary inspector with Mr. Battram, and asked him if he would attend at three o'clock to-day; and I have just received this telegram from Mr. Wrack, jun. :—

“ Thesiger, House of Lords,

“ Wrack, sen., busily engaged in district.—*Wrack, jun.*”

31983. Have you any letters to be read to the Committee?

During the past year I have received several letters with regard to the West-end tailors which it might be interesting to the Committee to hear in order to place the matter before them clearly. The first was written in July 1888; it is as follows :—

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have been requested to forward to you the following resolution passed
“ at a crowded meeting of our trade held in St. Andrew's Hall, Newman-
“ street, 20th June.

“ That this meeting desires to express its satisfaction with the action of
“ the House of Lords in instituting an inquiry into the evils of the sweating
“ system, and trusts that its scope will be enlarged so as to include the West-
“ end, as we are convinced that there is ample justification for such exten-
“ sion. And we believe that the revelations already made will have the
“ effect of concentrating public attention, and awakening public indignation,
“ so that measures will be speedily devised for the suppression of an evil
“ which is an injustice to the workman, a source of demoralization to the
“ workwoman, a fraud upon the public, and a scandal to the nation.

(signed) “ W. L. W. LAWSON, Chairman.”

“ Yours, &c.

“ *D. Clark, Secretary.*”

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Hon. E. P. THESIGER, C.B.

[*Continued.*]

That was forwarded by D. Clark, the Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, West London District.

"Then Mr. Shipton, who is Secretary of the London Trades Council, forwarded a copy of the same resolution to your Lordship as Chairman of the Committee, on the 31st of July 1888. The next letter I received was from Mr. Clark again, the Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors in November 1888, and is as follows :—

"Sir,

"Will you kindly oblige our Committee by informing them if it is the intention of the House of Lords' Sweating Committee to receive evidence from West London, and, if so, the probable date ?

"Hoping I do not encroach on your valuable time,—

"Yours, &c.

"*Daniel Clark.*"

That was during the autumn Session and the Committee was then sitting ; and acting on the instructions of the Committee I wrote to Mr. Shipton to ask him whether he would attend on the 13th of December and give general evidence with regard to sweating, both in the West-end tailoring trade, and also with reference to the building trade ; and I then received the following letter.

"Dear Sir,

10 December 1888.

"Thank you very much for your note in reference to my giving evidence of a general character before the Lords' Committee on the sweating system.

"It would, however, be impossible for me to do so as soon as the 13th. I think the evidence would be confined to the building trades, and be of a specific, and not a general character.

"At my request the United Trades (Building) Committee will meet at once with the object of getting facts as to the sub-letting of work until it comes to practical scamping work, and sweating. Immediately anything definite and reliable is obtained, I will send to you again.

"I am, &c.

(signed) "*George Shipton.*"

Then in February I wrote again to Mr. Shipton, by direction of the Committee, to ask whether he would be in a position shortly to lay before the Committee the evidence with regard to these two trades, and this is the reply which I then received :—

"Sir,

"22 February 1889.

"I waited to reply to your note until after last night, as we then had a large meeting of trade delegates. I read your letter, and reminded the building trades, and the West-end tailors, that they should at once get together evidence, either as to sweating, or system of sub-contracts which were injurious to their industries. I found that they will be glad for the inquiry to come as late as possible.

"I will write to each branch in detail, and on hearing from them will write to you again.

"I am, &c.

(signed) "*George Shipton.*"

The next letter is addressed to Mr. Kinloch Cook, who is your Lordship's private secretary, and is dated 28th March 1889.

"Dear Sir,

"I brought the question of sweating before our full delegate meeting last month, and specially requested the West-end tailors, and the building trades, to be prepared with the evidence on the subject, or any system of sub-contracting and scamping work which produced similar results.

"Up

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Hon. E. P. THESIGER, C.B.

[*Continued.*]

“ Up till now I have no response, and I am writing to each of these trades to say that if they intend to give evidence they must do so very shortly. I will write to you again soon.

“ Yours, &c.
(signed) “ *Geo. Shipton.*”

Then on the 29th May 1889 I received the following letter from the Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, Mr. D. Clark :

“ Sir,
“ I am directed to ask you to lay before the ‘ Lords Committee ’ the accompanying letter hoping the delay has caused you no inconvenience.

“ Yours, &c.
(signed) “ *D. Clark.*”

“ To the Right Honourable the Earl of Dunraven.

“ My Lord,
“ We have to thank your Lordships’ Committee for kindly affording us another opportunity of again appearing before you to testify as to the evils of the sweating system in connection with the tailoring trade in the West-end of London.

“ Having regard, however, to the value of time to your Committee, and the fact that valuable evidence for our trade, indicating effective reforms, has already been given, we do not propose to submit other witnesses to your Lordships’ Committee.

“ It may, however, be well to assure your Lordships that the publicity given by the Lords’ Inquiry into the Sweating System, and the exposure resulting therefrom, have had a salutary effect in greatly reducing the evils of which we complained, and rendering evidence of existing traces of it almost impossible to obtain through the special efforts and anxiety of employers to conceal them.

“ With respect to remedial measures for the suppression of the sweating system, we strongly urge your Lordships’ Committee to recommend the adoption by Parliament of the suggestions made in the evidence given on 10th July 1888, by Mr. Holly, then President of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors.

“ The summary of this evidence may be taken as follows :

“ 1st. That proper, adequate, and suitable workshop accommodation be provided by employers for carrying on their work.

“ 2nd. The compulsory registration of all workshops, accepting the definition of a workshop as that already given by the witness referred to with respect to the 98th clause of the Factory and Workshops Act, and the repeal of the 69th clause of that Act.

“ 3rd. Such an increase of sub-inspectors from the ranks of practical workmen engaged in respective trades as shall effectually secure the abolition of the evils complained of.

“ 4th. That with regard to the sanitary arrangements in workshops, it shall be the duty of the factory inspector to report forthwith any defects in this respect to the sanitary inspector of the district, whose duty it should be to at once order all necessary remedies to be carried out.

“ Signed, on behalf of the West London District of the Amalgamated Society of Journeymen Tailors,

Daniel Clark,
Secretary.”

“ The ‘ Crown,’ Heddons-street, Regent-street, W.,
30 May 1889.

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Hon. E. P. THESIGER, C.B.

[*Continued.*]

That completes the case of West-end tailors. Then you will remember that Mr. George Shipton also said he had communicated with the London Trades Committee of Carpenters and Joiners, and I have a letter from their Secretary, Mr. Dew, as follows ; it is addressed to your Lordship :

“ My Lord,

8 December 1888.

“ Mr. Geo. Shipton, Secretary of the London Trades’ Council, informs me
“ that you would be pleased to receive evidence from this Committee with
“ reference to the question of sweating. I may state that we have some
“ very important information with reference to this question, and I have
“ called a special meeting for Tuesday next to appoint a delegate.

“ As I understand Thursday will be your last day for taking evidence
“ in London, I shall consider it a favour if you will inform me as to the
“ most convenient time to attend.”

That was written on 8th December 1888. I then wrote to him to say that the Committee would not be able to take their evidence before the Prorogation, but that I would write to him later on during the next Session if the Select Committee was re-appointed. I wrote to Mr. Shipton to that effect in May last, and this is the answer I received on 23rd May 1889 :

“ Dear Sir,

“ After consulting with the representatives of the building trades, I
“ have to say that we do not propose to offer evidence as to the Sweating
“ System in connection with those trades. Mr. Dew will doubtless reply
“ to your letter if he has any special evidence to give.

“ I am, &c.

(signed) “ *George Shipton.*”

I received no further letter from Mr. Dew.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next,
at Eleven o’clock.

Die Lunæ, 15^o Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Lord CLINTON.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord FOXFORD (*Earl of Limerick*).

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord MONKSWELL.

Lord BASING.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL),
IN THE CHAIR.

MR. ROBERT GIFFEN, is called in; and having been sworn, is Examined,
as follows:

31984. *Chairman.*] You are an Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trade?

One of the Assistant Secretaries of the Board of Trade, having charge of the Commercial Department.

31985. We have had a great deal of evidence before this Committee as to the foreign immigration into this country, especially as regards the destitute foreigners; and the evidence as to the extent of this immigration is very conflicting; can you give the Committee any information on that point?

I may say that I have had occasion to look into the matter, partly because it is supposed from my Department publishing statistics of immigration and emigration, that it might be possible for us to give some information directly in connection with the subject of the immigration of destitute foreigners. I may state, however, that the statistics with which we deal do not bear upon that point at all, and that has always been carefully explained in all the publications of the Department. As in most countries, the subject of emigration and immigration has been looked at here very much from the point of view of the great emigration which takes place from Europe to the United States and to other new countries; and the origin of the statistics which the Department publishes was the administration of the laws with reference to that emigration. They are strictly confined to the passage of people from this country to places out of Europe, and to the passage of people from places out of Europe into this country. So far as that section of the subject is concerned, the statistics which we publish appear to be tolerably complete, and there are also statistics published by other European countries of a similar kind, always with reference mainly to that emigration from those countries to distant countries. But, of course, when it comes to a question of what is comparatively a small immigration (I mean comparatively to the whole population of this country), that of destitute aliens into this country, these materials with which we deal officially do not bear upon the subject at all. It has been suggested that it would not be difficult to obtain information officially as to the immigration into this country; but I have pointed out before, and it may be pointed out again, that in order to deal with the subject effectively it would be necessary to have a record of all people coming into this country from European places, distinguishing those that were foreigners from those that were English people, and also a complete record of all people, both foreigners and natives, going from this country to European places. That would be a most elaborate and difficult record to obtain, but without it you would be quite unable to show the balance of population coming into this country from

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Mr. GIFFEN.

[Continued.]

European places. That would be a very difficult thing to establish, even if it could be established *de novo*.

31986. There is an Act in existence, is there not, which, if it was carried out, would give the information as to the numbers and nationalities of aliens landing here?

Until quite lately I was not aware even of the existence of that Act, though I should have been very glad to have known of it 10 or 12 years ago, when my attention was first called to the subject in connection with the immigration and emigration statistics of the department. I saw at that time that it would be very useful to have such statistics. But I am sorry to say that the Alien Act would not be sufficient for the purpose in view, even if it were to be enforced, because it only applies to the one side of the account as it were; that is to say, it deals only with people coming into this country, and supplies no means of estimating the number of people going away to Europe, which would be quite as important in order to strike an account, and give you some idea of the subject.

31987. But could not the other side of the account be ascertained from the statistics furnished by foreign countries; I suppose the principal emigration of the persons in question from Britain would be to the United States and South America?

Yes; but as far as the United States is concerned, the thing is already shown. What I was speaking of was that we should have to show the people departing from this country to European places, of which we have no record at all at the present time, and no means of obtaining a record. As far as the movement to and from places out of Europe is concerned, we have an official record under Acts of Parliament by which very elaborate lists have to be given up in connection with the entries and the clearances of the vessels, and these come to the Statistical Department at the Board of Trade, to the Commercial Department that is, and are examined very closely from day to day, and from week to week; but there is no such authority for obtaining lists of people going from this country to places in Europe, as well as for people going to places out of Europe.

31988. Do you know if there is any return flow, any emigration, of this particular class of destitute aliens from England to European countries?

There is no reason as far as I know to believe that there is any large emigration from this country to European countries at all. We know from the census returns of the different European countries that there are a certain number of English residents there, but not any very large amount.

31989. But what I mean is, if you could ascertain the numbers and nationalities of the destitute foreigners arriving in Britain, and the numbers arriving from Britain in the United States and South America, would not that practically be all that was necessary?

I thought you were pointing just now to a movement which, no doubt, takes place of immigration to this country, which is practically *en route* to the United States; but, so far as that is concerned, we have practically a complete record of that. Although we do not take note of the people coming into this country on their way to places out of Europe, yet we take a complete record of them, as they leave this country to go to the United States and other places, and it appears in our Returns; and the foreign element going from this country to places out of Europe is, for the most part, a purely transit element. There is very little of anything else. The people come into Hull chiefly, and go straight across to Liverpool, or come to London and take shipment from London direct; and I think that there is a transit trade at other points across the country.

31990. Then I do not understand why in that case, if we have the means of ascertaining the emigration of this foreign element, as far as the United States are concerned, and it is probable that there is practically no emigration of that class to European countries from Britain; you have not, practically, all the facts that are necessary in your possession?

That

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Mr. GIFFEN.

[Continued.]

That is not quite the point, I understood. When you put the question, a little time ago, I thought you were referring to the emigration from this country of natives of this country of a destitute class to places in Europe.

31991. I was referring to the emigration of the destitute foreign element to European countries?

Now that I understand the bearing of the question, I think I may say that there is a great deal of evidence of considerable numbers of these destitute aliens that have come to this country being sent back to European places; so that it would be necessary to have an account of those that go back as well as of those that come, if we were to make a distinction at all; and then for statistical purposes, we should have to go into the whole question and take a record of every ship; not merely of the people that we think ought to come into the returns, because it is difficult to instruct your clerks to make the necessary distinctions, and the records would not be considered trustworthy unless they were tolerably complete, but you would have to make a complete record of all the people going from this country to Europe, and then make your separations and distinctions, and that would be a very large thing to do for the sake of a very small balance of the population, and might not give you a very true result owing to the numbers you wished to arrive at being so small, and the numbers with which you deal being so large.

31992. The principal ports in Britain are London and Hull where the foreign pauper element arrives, are they not?

So far as one knows those are almost the main points.

31993. And Hamburg and Bremen would be the principal ports from whence they depart?

That is so.

31994. If those four places were dealt with, would that give any sufficiently accurate information?

I think not; because although it does not seem to be so important, I believe that great numbers of passengers in the aggregate, although very few by any one particular ship, do come to this country and go from it in all sorts of ways, of which you would not get any good account unless you were able to make the thing tolerably complete.

31995. Then you think, in fact, that the carrying out of the alien law would not be of any practical avail in ascertaining the volume of this foreign immigration?

I think not, unless you can make it for statistical purposes apply to both sides; and how far it could be enforced without interrupting trade I do not feel quite sure; at any rate we have not got laws at present that would enable us to obtain the information.

31996. Is there any other way in which the volume of this foreign immigration can be appropriately arrived at?

The matter being in that state, I have looked into other ways by which information of that kind could be arrived at, and there is no doubt that there is one very good way, but it is not available except for comparatively long periods, and that is, to take the census of the population. That is done at intervals of 10 years, and at intervals of 10 years we are able to state what the numbers of foreign people coming into this country and settling here have been. At each census you have a record of the number of people living in this country, born in foreign countries, and a very detailed and elaborate record it is. But of course that does not tell what has been going on since the date of the last census, since 1881. I can however give you the figures of the period between 1871 and 1881. In that period the increase of the foreign population in the whole of the United Kingdom was 22,000, from 114,000 to 136,000; and of that number, of that 22,000, the increase of Russians and Poles in the country was about 5,000. The materials are all in the different census returns, England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, for 1881 and 1871. But I may say that a summary of the whole of them was given in a

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Mr. GIFFEN.

[Continued.]

Special Return of the Board of Trade to Parliament, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 18th April 1887, in which I gave all these particulars as to the immigration of foreigners into this country as between 1871 and 1881. I think with reference to these destitute foreigners the question seems to be chiefly with regard to the immigration of the Russian and Polish Jews, who are all entered in the Returns apparently as Russians and Poles, that is to say, born in Russia and in Poland (that is the way we look upon them); and the exact figures of the increase in the United Kingdom between 1871 and 1881 are these. In 1871 the number of Russians and Poles returned as living in this country, and as having been born in Russia and Poland was 9,974, and in 1881 the figure is 15,271, an increase of that element of rather more than 5,000 in the ten years. The increase of the German element in the same period (although that is not so special in connection with this inquiry) was from 35,141 in 1871, to 40,371 in 1881. And these are the definite figures from the census, which show what the movement was up to that time. Then, of course, the question would be whether, since 1881, there is any reason to believe that there has been a greater increase of that element than there was in the period between 1871 and 1881. I think there is perhaps some evidence that there has been a greater increase since 1881 than there was before that date; but then you get into what is more or less conjectural, whereas up to 1881 the figures are tolerably certain. But I may say that in connection with the general figures of emigration from European countries to places out of Europe to which I have referred, there is incidental evidence that whatever the movements of destitute Europeans, chiefly Russians and Poles, to this country may be, there is no reason to believe that there is any large emigration from Europe for permanent settlement in this country. I have looked into the question, for instance, with reference to the emigration from Russia, and I have compared with that the figures that we get from Germany as to Russians and Poles passing through Bremen and Hamburg for settlement in distant places, not in England, but in distant places; and I have also compared with them the figures which we obtain from the United States of the settlement of Russians and Poles in that country; and the effect of that evidence seems to be that whatever the increase of the emigration of Russians and Poles in recent years may have been, it is apparently for the most part accounted for in other ways than by a settlement in the United Kingdom. Between 1870 and 1880 (according to the Russian returns I am speaking now) the annual emigration from Russia of Russian subjects was about 35,000; from 1881 to 1885 the annual emigration was about 38,000; that is an increase of about 3,000 annually in the years since 1881 as compared with the ten years before that. I cannot give you the whole figures between 1870 and 1880 as regards the Russians and Poles passing Hamburg and Bremen, but I find that between 1873 and 1880, along with the emigration of 35,000 annually from Russia, the number of Russians and Poles passing Hamburg and Bremen was 6,200; but in 1880 to 1885, when the Russian emigration had increased about 3,000 a year, the number of Russians and Poles passing Hamburg and Bremen had risen to 11,000 annually; and in the year 1886 the return is that 34,000 passed through Hamburg and Bremen; and that you must understand is for settlement, not in the United Kingdom, but in non-European places. Then with regard to Russians and Poles arriving in the United States, the numbers so arriving between 1870 and 1880 were about 5,000 annually; between 1881 and 1885 these numbers had risen to 17,400 annually, and in the year 1886 the numbers were 33,000; in 1887, 31,000; in 1888, 43,000; from which the inference would appear to be that along with an increase of emigration from Russia since 1881 there has been a greater efflux by way of Hamburg and Bremen to distant countries, and there has certainly been a greater influx into the United States; a much greater influx than in the period between 1870 and 1880; so that the balance of people in that way remaining for settlement in the United Kingdom would not apparently be very large comparatively with the whole number of people in this country, although it might, no doubt, be important with reference to particular localities and to particular trades.

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Mr. GIFFEN.

[Continued.]

31997. Do the statistics you get from the port of Hamburg and Bremen specify the port of destination?

Yes, they specify the country of destination; and I may say that it is distinctly with reference to what is called the over-sea emigration; it excludes any such emigration as that to the United Kingdom.

31998. But it would include entrance into the United Kingdom in transit to the United States?

Yes; in transit that would appear. There is a regular trade of that kind.

31999. What I wanted to ask on that was whether it is probable or not that a number who declare themselves to be going to the United States through the United Kingdom may remain in the United Kingdom?

I think that is not likely, because the statistics are looked at somewhat carefully. I have reason to believe that in Hamburg and Bremen they would not put down passengers that were evidently going to settle in the United Kingdom as going to the United States.

32000. But I mean take the case of a man who declared that he was going to New York through the United Kingdom; and who arrives in this country, and then finds himself unable to proceed?

I think he would not be put down as going to New York unless he had paid for his passage to New York; and of course the balance of people who paid their passage to New York, and stayed in this country on the way, would not be very large. I think you can see from that how the statistics are to be depended on, that they are taken with reference to actual movements of passengers that they understand. Then with regard to Germany, in the five years ending 1885, the emigration from Germany amounted to about 979,000, that is, the whole emigration from Germany according to the German official returns. In the same period the German immigration into the United States only was 930,000; that is a difference of about 40,000 to 50,000 of the German emigration, which might be accounted for in other ways; and as there is known to be from other sources an emigration of Germans to adjacent countries, partly to France, for instance, and an emigration of Germans, not a very large amount, still to various places all over the world, the balance of Germans that may possibly have come to this country on this showing, does not seem to be very large, as the greater part of it is accounted for in the United States. I may say that in the year 1886, the German emigration amounted to 83,000; and in 1887 to 100,000; and in the three years 1886 to 1888 inclusive, the German immigration into the United States was 305,000. So that there is still to all appearance as large an absorption of the German emigration in the United States as there was before. Then it being apparently established in this way, that whatever foreign element of that kind there may be, it is not very large with reference to the population of this country; I have looked into the subject a little more minutely upon the evidence of the statements of the Jewish Board of Guardians and other things which have been published; and the conclusion to which I have come, chiefly from a comparison of the number of cases dealt with by the Jewish Board of Guardians about 1881, and the number dealt with in recent years, would seem to point to an increase of that Russian and Polish element of rather more than 40 per cent. since about 1881. The cases dealt with by the Jewish Board of Guardians in 1875-1876 were about 1,900 annually; cases, not individuals, because the individuals were much more numerous than the cases.

32001. You are speaking of the Jewish Board of Guardians in London.

Yes. In 1881 the number of cases they dealt with was 2,600. In 1886 this number had grown to 4,139, that being the maximum number of cases which they dealt with in one year. In 1887 the number had fallen to 3,313. In 1888 there is a slight increase over the year 1887, but still a much less figure than in 1886, the number being 3,513; and comparing the few years before 1881 with 1888, the increase, as I have said, is from 40 to 50 per cent. in the number of cases they dealt with; and if you assume an equal increase of that Russian and Polish element which seems to supply them so very largely with their cases, that would

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MR. GIFFEN.

[Continued.]

give you an increase of about 8,000 to that number of 15,000 of Russians and Poles which I gave you as being in this country in 1881, having been born in Russia and Poland. That would give an increase of 8,000, and that would, upon the number of Russians and Poles in the metropolis only of that class, give an increase of about 3,500. Of course these figures are not at all exact, they are only a means for forming a judgment along with other things.

32002. I was going to ask you if you are aware whether, in these various years which you have mentioned, the Jewish Board of Guardians had made any alterations in their methods of dealing with these people, or whether they were conducted throughout in the same manner?

I think they were conducted throughout in pretty much the same manner, except that in the latter period they seem to have been associated with the Mansion House Relief Fund, in promoting emigration especially. I have looked into that a little, but this is evidently a kind of treatment of much the same description so far as one can judge.

32003. The same tests, you think, were applied in the various years?

I would not attach very great value to that perhaps, if it was the only thing we had to go by; but in connection with the other things, and looking at the fact that even an increase of 3,500 in a few years would be a very serious matter in a small locality, and in a very few trades in the East-end of London, I think that an increase of between that number and 5,000 or 6,000 at the outside, would probably account for the commotion which has taken place at the East-end; that that would be a very large influx indeed with reference to the necessities of particular trades and the necessities of particular localities at the East-end.

32004. In the statistics you obtain from Hamburg and Bremen, are the trades and conditions of the people mentioned?

To the best of my recollection, I think they are not gone into very much at all.

32005. Do you know how they proceed to obtain that information at those ports?

There are statistical departments both at Hamburg and Bremen (or rather there used to be; I do not know exactly how the thing would be now), quite independent, in connection with the municipalities of those places. Of course, Hamburg and Bremen were both independent States as it were to some extent, and they had their own Statistical Bureaux.

32006. I mean what practical steps do they take to get at accurate information as to the number of persons leaving their ports?

I know that the steps are analogous to what we take in reference to the emigration of people from this country to places out of Europe, that is, that we have lists of all people, stating sex, condition, nationality, and various other particulars.

32007. You mean of all the people embarking?

Yes, of all the people embarking.

32008. Would that give their destination?

It would give their occupations, and the destination is implied in a list given by the vessel going away, by the clearance of the vessel.

32009. Supposing I go to the United States, have you particulars of the conditions and circumstances under which I go there?

If you go to the United States from any port in this country, I should see your name in the passenger list; if you give your own name and not any other. We are continually written to by people to find out some particular relative who has gone by such and such a vessel, and we are asked to search the lists of vessels leaving this country over a particular period, and that information is continually being given administratively. We have the name of every passenger leaving this country for places out of Europe; and I believe that they have much the same kind of thing in Hamburg and Bremen as well as at other ports in Europe. (in Italy for instance) where passengers are embarked to these distant places.

32010. But

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32010. But not giving their occupations or trade ?

They give their occupations usually ; but how far the occupations are worked out by the Statistical Bureaux is a different question. I may say that we always publish in our own Emigration Returns a list of occupations ; but my own impression is that although the people state their occupation in these lists, that is not so much to be depended upon perhaps as some other parts of the information which we get. I may say that in the Alien Lists which are given under the Alien Act the occupations are not very carefully stated as a rule ; sometimes they are stated, and sometimes they are not ; and very often the designations are very vague and general, such as "labourer," or something of that kind, and it really is a difficult thing to get occupations properly returned.

32011. Do you consider that the Census Returns are reliable in dealing with this class of foreign immigrants ?

I think they are fairly trustworthy ; I can see no reason to think that they are not, because from the mode in which the census information generally is obtained, it is extremely unlikely that any errors would be made to throw one out on one side or the other. There may be errors made through confusion on the part of people making the returns, but no general or wide-spread bias to give wrong information ; and as the net is swept very clean and very wide, I think that the information must be trustworthy.

32012. I suppose it would lie upon the occupier, the master of the shop, to give the information with regard to all the persons in the shop ?

The schedule which has to be filled up for the census is a householder's schedule ; it is the householder who has to fill it up, and then the enumerator is supposed to take a little trouble when he collects these schedules to see that they are filled up correctly, and if they are not filled up correctly and fully he is sent back so as to get them filled up fully and correctly.

32013. You think, on the whole, that they can be relied upon ?

I think for that purpose they can be quite relied upon, and that it is extremely unlikely that they are not trustworthy on that point.

32014. Do you think that for the purpose of getting more accurate knowledge of the amount of this destitute foreign element arriving in this country, any special steps should be taken in the next census ?

I do not like to speak upon a subject which is really a matter for another Department, because the census is not under my care ; but I have no doubt that if attention is called to it specially, a special report could be made upon that subject in the next census. That is a thing which, if the Government approve, and if Parliament wish, could no doubt be done. But I may state, generally, that along with most other statisticians, I am very much in favour of a more frequent census than we now have. In Germany, and in France, I am not sure whether in Italy, but certainly in various other countries, they have a census every five years, and it seems to me rather too long an interval to have a census every 10 years, and, at any rate, in towns which are rapidly changing and rapidly growing, it would be very desirable that you should have it every five years, as it is the basis of so many other statistics.

32015. Then I take it from you that as regards the extent of this foreign immigration, you are of opinion, from the sources at your disposal, which you have quoted from, that in proportion to the population of the country and so on, the amount is small, very small ; but that, in your opinion, it is large enough to have had a considerable disturbing effect in certain industries and certain localities ?

That is the conclusion to which I came when Mr. Burnett wrote his Report two years ago, and I think all the evidence seems to bear it out. Perhaps before we pass from that subject I might call attention to the passage in Mr. Burnett's Report with reference to the sweating system in Leeds. That Report bears upon the question of the growth of this foreign destitute Jewish element in another part of the country than the East-end of London. He says : " In Leeds the growth of the Jewish population has been strikingly sudden and rapid. Twenty-five years ago there were not a sufficient number of Jews in

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Leeds to form a congregation, for which 10 men are requisite. Mr. Abrahams was of opinion that there may now be 8,000 foreign Jews in Leeds. But, to be well within bounds, he limited himself to the general statement that the Jewish population in Leeds is not less than 6,000 to 7,000." Then I may say that in that Return to which I have already referred you, containing particulars as to the immigration of foreigners into the United Kingdom based upon the census, which was ordered by the House of Commons on the 18th of April 1887, there is appended a memorandum by Mr. Burnett, in which he repeats statements which had been made to him by trades unions' authorities in different parts of the country with reference to the same element in their towns, Manchester, Birmingham, and Glasgow, and various other places. He does not mention Leeds in that place, curiously enough. The Return is No. 112. of Session 1887. I refer to that merely to bring before you the fact that there are notices of an increase of that foreign element, not only in the East-end of London but in other parts of the country; but, I think, in Leeds perhaps more marked than in any other part of the country that I have noticed.

32016. You said that in your opinion the amount was sufficient to have caused considerable disturbance in certain trades; I suppose it would be the case; would it not, that a comparatively very small quantity of very cheap foreign labour wanting employment might have a considerable effect over a comparatively large population unorganised, a large quantity of unorganised labour?

I think that is quite evident; and of course it has been noticed that the chief trades at the East-end which have been disturbed are, first of all the tailoring trade, and next of all, I think, the boot and shoe making trade. Well in the tailoring trade at the East-end, I think the numbers are variously estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000; and, the boot and shoe making trade is not much more; and if you bring a few hundred people suddenly into trades of these dimensions, their presence may have a very great effect by way of competition in lowering the rate of wages or causing disturbance to those employed, displacing them perhaps.

32017. Lord *Basing*.] Did I quite clearly understand you, that in point of actual numerical statement, the numbers who come into the country under these circumstances as immigrants, are not appreciable as compared with the population of this country generally, and the waste caused by emigration?

That is the number who come and stay and do not go away again; that is so.

32018. Have you any idea what the waste of population from this country by emigration is; I mean of this distressed class that we are speaking of?

Of course the number of emigrants from this country is comparatively well known, because we publish it regularly. The emigrants are from 200,000 to 300,000 annually; and even if you deduct the people who come back again out of that number, you still have very large figures.

32019. That is emigrants who are regarded as such?

That is, all people who go from this country to places out of Europe; and if you deduct from that number those who come back again, you still have very large figures. Then, assuming that the balance consists of people who have gone to stay, it would be quite impossible, I think, to distinguish how far the people who emigrate are a distressed class. They are no doubt, as a rule, a poor class.

32020. But there is a growing tendency, is there not, to send pauper children out to Canada?

The number of children who go away is stated in the Returns, and of course it is a very considerable figure. The number of British and Irish children in the last year (I think 1887 is the last I have at this moment before me) was about 47,000 under 12.

32021. From England alone?

From the United Kingdom to all places. I could tell you the number to

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to Canada. To British North America the number of children was about 6,300.

32022. Do the children and the others who go out as emigrants compete in the labour market of the countries to which they go, precisely in the same way as it is complained of that foreigners compete in our labour market?

That would be so; but no doubt one difference would be that the labour market to which they go is not an over-stocked labour market, as is that market here.

32023. Great complaints have been made in the United States on that score?

Great complaints have been made.

32024. How do they deal with that grievance?

They have only commenced to discuss it; they have not taken any steps except to prevent immigration of absolute paupers, and of people who are not able to take care of themselves, and who have no visible means of support; I think that is all the length to which they have yet gone.

32025. Do you mean that there has been no remonstrance on the part of the United States with this Government on the subject?

That is a matter on which I could not speak. That would be a matter for the Foreign Office, whether remonstrances had been received.

32026. The number of persons of the artizan class who return the compliment, as it were, by going to Germany or France, is inappreciable, I suppose?

I believe it is quite inappreciable; certain numbers have gone, but I believe they have very often been superior artizans to take the lead in certain industries.

32027. Lord *Clinton*.] You get your figures of the immigration of Poles and Russians from the entries at the ports?

That is to say, the alien lists supply a certain amount of information on that subject, but I have hardly made use of them in the information I have given, because they are hardly in a shape in which they can be used, as we have no similar information as to how many of these people that come go away again almost immediately.

32028. How do you get your figures as to the emigration of Poles and Russians?

They are partly estimated upon certain facts, which I stated, chiefly from the Jewish Board of Guardians, as to the number of cases which they deal with.

32029. But they are not official returns?

No.

32030. Then you have no official returns of the number of people going from the ports showing where they settle?

No official information.

32031. You only get your information on that point from the increase of the number of those people in the particular localities; Leeds for instance?

That is so. No doubt in two or three years from this time we shall know a great deal more about the subject with some exactness; when the census comes to be taken the information will be official.

32032. Lord *Monkswell*.] The children of foreigners are reckoned English, so that if the emigration and immigration balance, foreigners would decrease in the country; the number as taken by the census?

That would be so.

32033. So that you have taken that into consideration in these statistics?

I may say that I have had a great deal of discussion on that very point, because I tried to make out that the foreign element in this country would really be larger than what appeared from the Census Returns, and then one Jewish gentleman to whom that point was mentioned was somewhat indignant, and tried to make out that once they began to speak English, they were English to all intents and purposes; so the matter was left in that way.

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32034. In point of fact, within a very limited number of years, if there was no emigration or immigration at all, everybody in England would be treated as an Englishman?

I believe that would be so according to law; but the census is very careful in its wording; it puts down the number of people living in this country who were born in Russia and Poland, and it also distinguishes those who are British subjects; they return themselves as British subjects or as foreigners.

32035. But of course it does not attempt to distinguish between the grandchildren of foreigners and natives?

No, not at all.

32036. You say that a considerable number of foreigners who arrive here are sent back; as to how and why they are sent back, have you any information?

I speak merely from the evidence of the reports of the Jewish Board of Guardians, which I have seen for a good many years past; and no doubt they do send back a good many.

32037. Simply, I suppose, because they think they will be better off in their own country. However you cannot speak of that?

No doubt they send them back because they think it better that they should go back.

32038. You do not try to find out in any way whether immigrants are destitute or not when they arrive here; you have no statistics to show you that?

I think up to a point two things appear; the first is that they are not paupers in the English legal sense, because you do not have any increase of pauperism in the East-end; second, you do know that many of them are destitute because they are immediately assisted by the Jewish agencies of different kinds; but they do not become a charge on the rates generally.

32039. At all events your Department does not attempt to distinguish in any way between those who are destitute and those who are not?

We have no means of knowing anything about that, beyond the information that has been referred to.

32040. *Chairman.*] Does the census show the various trades of these people?

I believe there has been a slip in that matter in the publication of the different papers in the hands of the census authorities; that the occupations are shown in the schedules, and for England and Wales the occupations of foreigners are stated in the Census Returns as published; but to the best of my recollection the occupations are not stated in detail for particular districts of the country; but in some papers which I have read, I think in the book of Mr. Booth's, just published, I see one or two of the people who have written for that book have gone to the original sources of information in the Census Office, and have picked out some information as to trades in particular localities; but they are not official in detail as far as I know.

32041. To be of very great value it would be necessary, would it not, to get the details of their trades; I mean, to be of any use, it would be necessary for a man to describe the branch of tailoring, for instance, that he was occupied upon, because the general term "tailor" might cover such different occupations?

That points to one of the great difficulties in the census altogether; that is how to classify the occupations when you get them, and what data to give; that is a problem of the utmost nicety and difficulty.

32042. Just to revert for one moment to the question of this existing but disused alien law, would it not be of use if it were partially applied; if, for instance, it was put into operation at the two principal ports of entry of the destitute foreign element, Hull and London, and applied only to steamers leaving the principal ports of embarkation, Bremen and Hamburg, and declarations

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tions were obtained from them, as is done in the case of persons going to the United States, of their intention to remain in the country?

I am not quite sure whether that would not be an extension of the Alien Act. At present all that you get is that the captain is obliged to furnish a list of the alien passengers whom he brings; but I am not aware that he has to specify whether they intend to settle, or things of that kind, and that would require a little more administration than what is provided for, I think, by the present Alien Act. Whether they would have power to do that I could not say.

32043. I want to know your opinion; whether, if it could be done, and was done, it would assist in arriving at a more correct estimate of the amount of this foreign element which comes into this country?

I am a little doubtful whether it could be done to any useful purpose, owing to the difficulties of specially distinguishing the class of people whom you wish to get at.

32044. You think it would be difficult?

I think it would present some difficulties in working it out in detail. When you see the lists, it seems to present no difficulty; but I am quite sure that when you come to work it out in practice with an ordinary staff of clerks difficulties would arise.

32045. I mean, supposing there were, as in the United States, and as in many other, in not all other countries, regulations more or less stringent to exclude what you call destitute aliens altogether. In the United States, for instance, they will not have people in a destitute condition, as many of those who arrive here are; they send them back again?

I think in most foreign countries the police, and other matters, are much more stringently managed than with us. I speak of European countries especially now; but with regard to the United States particularly, I do not think that the laws, as they have been actually applied yet, would tend to exclude many of these people in question. A great many of them, in point of fact, are sent on to the United States, and no question arises; they are able, according to the report of the Jewish Board of Guardians, to meet the expense of the passage money very often, and they have friends in the United States who are answerable for them, and so on; and it does not appear that to any large extent the class of people who have come to this country and who have settled would be excluded by the operation of any United States law.

32046. Do you know at all what the United States' regulations are; could you give us any information on that point?

I could not give you the exact references at this moment, not having prepared myself on the point. I have looked into the subject at different times, and generally, it seems to be, that you must not bring in paupers (meaning by paupers, people who are supported by the Government or localities of the places from which they come), and you must not bring in people who are obviously unable to support themselves for a time till they get into employment.

32047. We have had mentioned in evidence before the Committee cases of people arriving with a few shillings, or the equivalent in foreign money of a few shillings, in their pocket, and with practically no knowledge of any trade; persons in such circumstances would not be allowed to land in the United States, would they?

What would happen exactly in the United States one hardly knows; because the effect of the law would be to prevent them going to some extent; but I may say, that in the annual Reports of Emigration and Immigration which my Department issue, we state the number of people going from this country to the United States who have been sent back during the last two or three years, and the numbers are very small indeed. You will find them in the Report; I am sorry that I have not got the last of those Reports with me.

32048. The number sent back would be small, because the knowledge that such persons would not be received would deter them from going?

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The owners of ships which go to the United States take very good care that they have not people of that kind thrown upon their hands ; but, I think, it appears that the United States have had a little more difficulty with emigrants coming from other places than those coming from this country ; because, I think, in the last year or two the numbers they have sent back altogether are about a thousand annually, but the numbers that have been sent back to the United Kingdom are only about one hundred or so annually.

32049. The evidence given before the Committee has been to a great extent concentrated and confined to the clothing and boot and shoe making, and we have had various opinions as to whether alterations, legislative or otherwise, affecting the cost of production of these articles would have any appreciable effect on our export trade, or increase our difficulties in respect of foreign competition ; can you give the Committee any information on those points ?

I have thought that it would be interesting to the Committee if I should state the particulars partly as to the imports, but mainly as to the exports in those particular branches of trade which have been so much before the Committee, as that would be one of the elements for your consideration ; and I have got Tables before me which I should propose to put in, and I can state the effect of them now, if it would be for the convenience of the Committee ?

32050. Yes ?

The first Table which I have is with reference to the import of boots and shoes into this country, that being a question which at different times has received attention itself as an element of competition with the home trade in this country ; and the first date I have here is 1868, at which time the quantity of boots and shoes imported was 36,000 dozen pairs (I am giving the figures in round numbers), and the value 110,000 £.; in 1878, the imports were 102,000 dozen pairs and the value 370,000 £.; and in 1888 the imports were 130,000 dozen pairs, and the value 390,000 £., somewhat higher figures as to both quantity and value having been touched in the intermediate period. The highest year of all as to quantity was 1887, in which the imports were 141,000 dozen pairs valued at 433,000 £.; and the highest year of all as to value was 1879, in which the imports were 127,500 dozen pairs, and the value at that time was 479,000 £. That shows a certain increase in the imports of boots and shoes. I am sorry that I could not get any information, owing to the differences of classification, as to the import of ready-made clothing and the import of furniture, but I have got all the figures of the exports as regards those things, as well as boots and shoes.

32051. Do you know if there is any import of ready-made clothing ?

I have been informed that there was some import of ready-made clothing, particularly from Germany ; and not being able to get any information from our own Returns, I looked up the German returns, and one of the things which I am going to put before you is a statement of the exports of ready-made clothing from Germany, and the exports in particular to the United Kingdom ; but I am sorry to say that, owing to the differences of classification, I am very doubtful indeed whether it is ready-made clothing of that particular kind which you have had under investigation before you, the ready-made clothing such as is made in the East-end of London ; it would be more ladies' clothing and other articles, which seems to point to a different trade ; so much is included under these returns.

32052. Does the same thing apply in respect of furniture ?

The same in respect of furniture. I have not been able to find that information ; at least, I have not got it before me now. There is some furniture imported undoubtedly into this country.

32053. That defect in the classification could be easily remedied, could it not ?

It could be ; but very often, unless things get to a certain amount, they are not separately stated in the Returns ; articles are lumped with other things until they get to a certain amount ; and that is one of the difficulties in the statistics.

32054. Then

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32054. Then might we assume because this particular kind of clothing and furniture does not appear classified by itself, that therefore it is very small in amount?

You may assume that it is comparatively small, but still it may exist to some extent. The fact that we do not get it under that name in the returns does not show that it does not exist. There is a general heading of "Goods Manufactured, Unenumerated," under which a great deal may come. Then with regard to apparel and slops in 1868, which is 20 years ago, the first date which I have got, the exports from the United Kingdom were 2,313,000 *l.*, and from London only, 1,233,000 *l.*; in 1878 the figures are, from the United Kingdom, 3,176,000 *l.*; and from London only, 2,029,000 *l.*; and in 1888 the figures are, from the United Kingdom, 4,658,000 *l.*; and from London only, 3,091,000 *l.* The increase is not quite steady from year to year; that is, there are ups and downs; but no doubt these figures show the general movement which has taken place; and I may say that in the present year, as far as it has gone, there has been a further considerable increase in the exports of apparel and slops from the United Kingdom; I cannot state the figures for London especially; but no doubt this year as far as it has gone there is a further increase.

3-055. Then practically the total export has doubled itself in 20 years, about?

The total export has doubled itself in 20 years. Of course that does not show what the home trade may be; the home trade may be very much larger all the same; but it shows what the export trade has been.

32056. Earl of *Limerick*.] As regards London, it has more than doubled?

As regards London it is two-and-a-half times what it was; perhaps rather more. Of course it does not follow either, as regards London, that the export from London is of what is manufactured in London; it may be brought from other places as well. That is a thing that we may have to remember. Then with regard to boots and shoes, the export of wrought leather—boots and shoes and other sorts unenumerated—20 years ago from the United Kingdom was 1,586,000 *l.* in value, and from London only, 1,124,000 *l.* in value; in 1878 the figures are, from the United Kingdom, 1,601,000 *l.*; from London only, 880,000 *l.* That is a decrease in the exports of London along with a stationary condition of things in the United Kingdom generally. Then in 1888 the exports from the United Kingdom are 2,175,000 *l.*, and from London only, 1,308,000; that is, London having gone down has again got up. And I may say that in the present year also there is an increase, as far as it has gone, over 1888. In order to make the comparison between London and the United Kingdom, these figures include a small amount of things which are not exactly boots and shoes though they are of the make of leather; but I will state the exact number of boots and shoes in quantities, exported from the United Kingdom as well. In 1868 the quantities were 439,000 dozen pairs exported from the United Kingdom; in 1878, 430,000 dozen pairs, and in 1888, 662,000 dozen pairs.

32057. Still these values would appear to increase in a greater proportion than the quantities?

I think you can hardly say that. The increase in quantities was very considerable, very nearly as great as the increase in value; it is about 50 per cent. between 1878 and 1888. I do not think that the increase in value is quite so much.

32058. Lord *Basing*.] Does the exporter always state the value of goods which are not subject to any regulation or duty?

The values are always stated. Every person exporting has to make a declaration of value to the Custom House, whether they charge a duty in the foreign country or not.

32059. It has no sort of control over that value, has it?

The Customs' Department exercise some sort of control. Now and again merchants get punished for not making proper declarations, and things get looked after, and I think that, no doubt, the values get fairly stated as a rule.

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32060. *Chairman.*] I suppose in exporting to a country where a duty is charged, the tendency would be certainly not to state an excessive value?

I think it may be the case to some extent; but then in most countries where duty is charged, especially in the United States, the merchants, apart altogether from the declarations they have to make to our Government, have to make very stringent declarations indeed, to the United States consul the declarations are very stringent, and these are much more looked at than any declarations of value which they may make to us; so that there is no likelihood of falsification for that reason. The next table I have relates to the exports of British-made furniture, cabinet, and upholstery wares, that being also one of the trades, I think, regarding which you had some evidence. In 1868 the total value of these exports was 205,000 *l.*, in 1878, 449,000 *l.*, and in 1888, 746,000 *l.* Then the next is one of two tables showing the principal countries to which these goods we send away are exported (I thought that might be of some interest), and I find with regard to apparel and slops, the chief country to which we export is British Possessions in South Africa, 944,000 *l.*, out of that total of 4,658,000 *l.* in 1888 which I have given you. To New South Wales an almost equal amount, 895,000 *l.*; to Victoria, 457,000; to British North America, 292,000 *l.*; to Queensland, 277,000; to New Zealand, 271,000 *l.*; and to South Australia, 204,000 *l.* Then the next country I have is France, 195,000 *l.*; then British West Indies and British Guiana, 141,000 *l.*; British India, 133,000 *l.*; United States of America, 117,000 *l.* Then "All Other Countries" I have put together, 732,000 *l.* So that the bulk of the exports is undoubtedly to British Possessions in South Africa and to Australia, with other amounts to British India and the British West Indies; and the amount to foreign countries is comparatively small. Then with regard to boots and shoes, out of the total value of 1,803,000 *l.*, boots and shoes specially, to New South Wales in 1888, we sent 420,000 *l.* worth; British Possessions in South Africa 377,000 *l.*; New Zealand 118,000 *l.*; Victoria 113,000 *l.*; British West Indies, &c., 111,000 *l.*; Queensland 92,000 *l.* Then under "Foreign Countries," I have got specially mentioned, Brazil 184,000 *l.*; "All Other Countries" 387,000 *l.* So that here again it is principally to Australia and to South Africa, and generally to British Possessions, that the boots and shoes are exported. With regard to furniture; in 1888 we sent to New South Wales 125,000 *l.* worth; Victoria 102,000; British Possessions in South Africa 68,000 *l.*; Argentine Republic 57,000 *l.*; the United States of America 49,000 *l.*; France 48,000 *l.*; and "All Other Countries" 295,000 *l.* Here again it seems to be chiefly Australia and British Possessions in South Africa that received the exports of furniture. The division is not quite so marked here, because certain foreign countries come in that are not specially mentioned in the other cases.

32061. So that the exports of furniture, cheap clothing, and cheap boots and shoes go principally to our colonies and possessions?

Very much to our own colonies and possessions.

32062. Do you know if our goods are in competition with foreign exports in those countries?

I have not looked specially into that point; but I have some tables to bring before you with reference to France and the United States especially, which will satisfy you that the exports of France and the United States are not so much to those countries which I have mentioned as to other countries; and as regards Germany, I have found so much difficulty with reference to their ready-made clothing, as I have already told you, that I have not thought it worth while to get out the countries for that; while as regards boots and shoes the German export is very small indeed anywhere. So that the competition may be important as a potential competition, while very small quantities may have a great effect in reference to price and things of that kind, but it is not actually a big thing compared with our own trade. With regard to France, I have taken out from the French Returns, going back to 1868, everything which they put under the head of wearing apparel; but so far as I can judge, the totals do not correspond with that trade in apparel and slops of our own with which we have been dealing, but it would include a great many different things, such as linen, under

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under clothing, collars and cuffs, hosiery, hats and caps, under the head of "wearing apparel;" and at the same time there has been some change in the French Returns between 1868 and the present time in their classifications, which throws one out a great deal. But as far as I can make out, in 1868 the proper item we can take is that of "ready-made clothing, new and second-hand," they distinguished them at that time; and putting these together, the value of all exports of ready-made clothing altogether was 1,754,000 *l.* In 1878, the value of the same exports, although the classification is a little different because it includes now men's clothes ready-made, women's clothes ready-made, and ready-made clothing second-hand (the classification is a little different) was 1,346,000 *l.*; and that is, altogether, a diminution as compared with 1868. Then in 1887, which is the last year I have got, the distinction of "ready-made clothing, second-hand" has disappeared altogether, and now we have got it under the headings of "men's clothes" and "women's clothes," and putting the two together, the exports amount to 1,984,000 *l.*, which is an increase as compared with 1878. But I may say that the greater part of that increase appears to be in women's ready-made clothing; and if you compare simply men's clothes ready-made in 1878 with the men's clothes ready-made in 1887, the total in 1878 is 783,000 *l.*, and in 1887 it is 741,000 *l.* But there again you are thrown out by the fact that in 1878 the figure which I have stated does not include 166,000 *l.* worth of second-hand ready-made clothing, which may be partly men's and not altogether women's; and in 1887 that item of second-hand ready-made clothing has disappeared altogether, and we do not know how much of that item is included in the 741,000 *l.* However, you will have the table before you, and that contains the best information that we have been able to get out of the French Returns upon the subject. Then with regard to boots and shoes, the information in the French Returns goes back to 1874, at which date the export of boots and shoes amounted to 2,218,000 kilogrammes in weight; that is, about 2,218 tons, as near as possible, and the total value, 2,862,000 *l.*; in 1887 the corresponding figures are, an export of 2,496 tons, of the value of 2,801,000 *l.*; so that that is an increase of quantity, and a decrease of value of French boots and shoes exported.

32063. How do they declare their values; do you know?

It is a different system from what we have in this country; I think it is fairly done. There is a commission of valuers who look up the market rates and examine into the quality of the goods exported, and make up the values in that way. It is not quite the same thing as in this country; but as far as one can judge it arrives roughly at much the same result. Then with regard to furniture exported from France, in 1868 the figure is 537,000 *l.*; in 1878, 562,000 *l.*; and in 1887, 551,000 *l.* That looks practically like a stationary trade; but comparatively high figures were touched in 1872 and 1873. Those were years of inflated values generally. I think you may still speak of it as a stationary trade, not an increasing one.

32064. Can you state the quantity and value of the wearing apparel exported by France to other countries?

I am unable to state it in values, but if you keep in mind the quantities it will show the proportions. Of men's clothing, out of a total weight of 1,229,000 kilogrammes exported, 350,000 kilogrammes, or rather more than one-fourth, were exported to the Argentine Republic; 254,000 kilogrammes, or about one-fifth of the total, were exported to Algeria; 44,000 to Belgium; 52,000 to the United Kingdom; 108,000 to New Granada; 66,000 to Switzerland; and 45,000 to Germany; and then smaller amounts to other countries, amongst which I find no mention of any British possession big enough to be separately enumerated.

32065. I suppose that some of that exported to the United Kingdom would be not for home consumption here?

That is possible; it might be on its way to the colonies. I do not give that figure here, but the amount is not large. Then with regard to

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boots and shoes exported from France, here also it is a question of weights. Out of 2,398,000 kilogrammes of leather boots and shoes in 1887, the quantity exported to Algeria was 345,000, or about a seventh part; to the Argentine Republic 304,000, or about an eighth part; to the United Kingdom 278,000, not quite so much as to the Argentine Republic; to Brazil, 264,000; to New Granada, 205,000; to Martinique, 145,000; to Switzerland, 119,000; to Belgium, 89,000; and then smaller amounts to one or two other small places, among which again I find hardly any British possession separately mentioned. Then with regard to furniture, out of a total weight of 6,000,000 kilogrammes exported in 1887, the quantity to the Argentine Republic was 1,153,000, or rather more than one-sixth; the quantity to the United Kingdom, 837,000; to Algeria, 820,000; to Belgium, 468,000; to Spain, 413,000; to Germany, 253,000; to Portugal, 242,000; to Brazil, 235,000; to the United States, 226,000; and then smaller amounts to other foreign countries, amongst which again I do not find the British Possessions. I may say, generally, that I am quite aware, both as regards France and Germany, from a Report which I prepared for the Board of Trade two years ago, that their exports to British Possessions generally are not very large; that is a thing that we do know independently; but these are the actual figures of the French exports of these goods to these particular countries.

32066. Then we may take it that in cheap clothing, and cheap boots and shoes, and furniture, neither in our home trade nor in our export trade, are we in any severe competition with foreign countries, actual competition?

I should not like to say that that is so altogether, especially as the competition may be felt indirectly in some way or other. But as regards boots and shoes especially, I do not think you can say that we are not subject to foreign competition, because there is a considerable import of boots and shoes at home. There is no doubt the appearance that as regards the foreign markets, our chief customers are not the chief customers of France; that is the effect of what I have been stating; and of course it is quite possible that the trades, although they have them under the general designations in the returns, may be substantially very different indeed; that is a thing we have always got to remember, that there are so many varieties of manufacture in detail that we must not assume because goods are called boots and shoes in the returns of England, that they are the same kind of boots and shoes as appear in the returns of France, that is not a thing we can assume; but I should not like to say that in point of theory the competition may not be felt indirectly in some way or other, and there is always a possible competition of course.

32067. What I wanted to get from you, if I can, is how far in your opinion the evils that have been complained of before the Committee in connection with the sweating system, the evils of excessive hours and low wages, can be fairly attributed to the pressure of foreign competition either in our export trade or home trade, or whether they can be attributed to it at all?

As regards the boots and shoes, there have been grave complaints of foreign competition, I know; I remember that distinctly; both complaints from people in the trade, and complaints by public men writing on questions of imports and exports; there have been complaints of competition in the boot and shoe trade, and it has been mentioned to me that there is a certain amount of import of ready-made clothing into this country although it does not appear in our returns; we have very little trace of it.

32068. Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.] The figures do not bear that out?

But there is a possibility that there is a certain amount of trade which is not shown by the figures.

32069. Chairman.] We have had it very generally stated before the Committee by a certain class of witnesses that far better wages could be paid and more desirable hours of work be in use, without increasing the cost of production by eliminating the middleman and so on, and we have also had it stated by some witnesses that even if the cost of production was increased by interference in those respects with the sweating system, unless it was largely increased there would

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would be no danger of our losing any portion of our export trade and of our home trade. On that point there is some little conflict of opinion; some witnesses maintaining that any increase in the cost of production might lose us the export trade and endanger the home trade to a great extent, the others saying that it would not; have you any opinion on that point?

My general opinion would be that it is very difficult to predict what the effect of any particular measures on trade will be, and that the tendency of any increase in the cost of production would be partly to stimulate an incipient competition, which is not at present very formidable, and partly to develop a new competition; that that would be the tendency. How far it would be safe to risk it or not would be a matter of discretion in the particular cases.

32070. It would, I presume, be very difficult to say what would happen if the cost of production was increased?

That is what I always say in trade matters, that you can see your way very little; that if you make a great change, you do not know how many other changes may be the consequence of what you are doing there. To go on with the other tables which I have before me, the exports of wearing apparel from the United States of all kinds in 1870 were 129,000 *l.*; in 1878, 183,000 *l.*; in 1888, 141,000 *l.*; not large amounts. Then as to boots and shoes, which has been frequently talked of as an important article of export from the United States (I remember reading about it a great deal, I am afraid to say how many years ago) in the period now covered it does not seem to have been important. In 1870 the total value of boots and shoes exported from the United States was 92,000 *l.*; in 1878, 103,000 *l.*; and in 1888, 152,000 *l.* Then household furniture from the United States in 1869 was 250,000 *l.*; in 1878, 408,000 *l.*; and in 1888, 486,000 *l.* Then with regard to Germany, I think I need hardly go much into detail, after what I have said, on account of the differences of classification. I can hardly tell how much of this German export of about five million pounds sterling would really be wearing apparel, corresponding to that particular trade which we have described, but it seems to have increased very rapidly in the last few years for which we have returns, in 1880 the total being 3,901,000 *l.*, and in 1888, 5,225,000 *l.*; and of these the exports to the United Kingdom alone in 1880 were 805,000 *l.*, and in 1887 they were 1,180,000 *l.* I cannot say how far it is of a kind which competes with the special trades which have been described; but such as they are these are the figures which we have got prepared, and I propose to put all these tables before the Committee. (*The Tables are handed in, vide Appendix.*)

32071. You have not mentioned where the exports of the United States went to, I think?

I thought the amount was so small that it was not worth much looking into; but I remember when I used to be looking into these matters the boots and shoes were largely exported to West Indian and South American countries, and that that was the nature of the trade.

32072. I mean do they come into competition with us; if not they would not be pertinent to this Inquiry?

I think to some extent. You may assume that the household furniture does compete with us, even in the home market. We do know that a certain amount of American furniture comes to this country; and as our foreign trade is so widely developed, you may assume that at some point or other if the articles were the same they would come into competition.

32373. Earl of *Limerick*.] Is there any import of furniture from Austria-Hungary and Germany?

There may be some, but I have not been able to find any figures showing it in a way I could bring before you; there may be things of that kind, important to those who know the trade intimately, which sometimes do not get into the statistical returns in a way that we can show it.

32074. *Chairman*.] Have you read the evidence that has been given before the Committee at all?

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I cannot say that I have read all the evidence, but I have given some attention to the three volumes which have been published; I have not seen any of the later evidence.

32075. A great deal of the evidence, as you know then, seems directed to show that much of this manufacture of those cheaper qualities of clothing, and boots and shoes, and so on, is conducted under conditions very unsanitary, and the great wretchedness of the operatives, insufficient wages, long hours, and so on; do you know at all whether the same evils as are complained of here exist in those other countries where they manufacture, more or less, the same kind and quality of goods?

I cannot say very much as to those particular trades, but we know generally that in Continental countries there is great distress among the working classes in different trades, and very unfavourable conditions as to sanitation and other matters. I may mention a statement which seems to me to bear very directly upon this special point and yet it does not bear so directly as I would like. It is one with regard to female labour in the manufacture of ready-made clothing in Germany. There was an investigation by the Imperial Government in Germany about two years ago, of which a summary was published in a recent report by the United States Consul at Leipsic, and a statement of that was published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for May 1888, and I thought it would be interesting to extract it and put it before the Committee. It shows a very distressing state of things indeed in Berlin with reference to the employment of female labour there, but it seems to be female labour more upon women's ready-made clothing than upon men's.

32076. Will you put that in?

Yes. (*The same is handed in, vide Appendix.*)

32077. Do you know whether any action was taken by the Government?

As to that specially I cannot say; but generally, no doubt, in most countries of late years a considerable amount of attention has been paid to questions of this nature. You have had a great inquiry, for instance, into the condition of the working classes in Belgium, which has been referred to in Parliamentary Papers issued by my Department, which published a summary of it, and it has been referred to frequently in the "Board of Trade Journal." There has been a recent inquiry into the condition of the working classes in Holland, the details of which I have not seen, though I have endeavoured to get them; and there are the proposals in the nature of factory legislation which are being considered in France, I believe, at the present time; and we all know from the Bureaux of Labour Statistics in the United States that great attention has been paid of late years to the condition of the working classes, and measures in the direction of our factory legislation for improved sanitation and other purposes have been introduced. There is no doubt that the same evils exist in other countries, and are being met by less or more similar means.

32078. You have spoken about the effect of this foreign immigration upon these particular trades by increasing the competition and so on; or have you anything to say about the increased competition in those trades from labour displaced in other trades, and so on. We have had a great deal of evidence, for instance, that the ranks of the dock labourers are filled by operatives in all kinds of industries, and especially from agriculture; have you anything you would like to say to the Committee on that subject?

I have nothing particular to say except that, as far as one can judge, it appears to belong to the general problem of the lower stratum of the working classes, or even an inferior stratum, which has occupied the attention of philanthropists and the Legislature of this country for the last 50 or 60 years. Everyone hopes that the evils are not quite so great as they have been, but still there are great evils.

32079. Then there is another aspect of the foreign immigration that has been mentioned before the Committee, and that is in respect of emigration; that it would be useless for men to emigrate with a view of getting employment elsewhere when the labour market in the trade is glutted, as long as unlimited immigration

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migration is permitted; have you anything you would like to say on that point?

My own view would be that as far as matters have gone yet you can hardly say that immigration can be spoken of as unlimited; that although it has had a serious effect upon one or two particular localities, and one or two particular trades, it would hardly be accurate to speak of it as unlimited.

32080. I did not mean unlimited in quantity, but unlimited by law; I did not mean you to infer a very large quantity, but that it was unregulated; that no legal limitation was put upon it. I remember a particular case; I think one of the dock labourers spoke about 500 men leaving the docks, young men, as emigrants, and 700 foreigners coming in just at the same time; and he rather put it to us: What is the use of emigration if immigration of that kind is allowed?

It principle the thing may be, perhaps, more important than it is in quantity as yet; and I should think, of course, there is an obvious contradiction between assisting people to go away, and at the same time permitting this immigration which seems to replace one evil by another evil of the same kind; and yet there may be no particular reasons why you should interfere with the thing legislatively at this stage, owing to the magnitude of it not being so very great. Any change of our laws and our principles in dealing with immigration might raise very serious questions indeed; and it is a question of expediency how far you should interfere.

32081. As we have heard from you, the foreign immigration is not very large; but would it not be likely to increase largely if there was any very largely increased immigration from this country?

I think that that would be a thing that ought to be considered very much with regard to any question of giving State-aid to emigration, or causing a large diversion of labour in that way; that, no doubt, would be one of the difficulties you would have to face.

32082. Practically the question that has been put before the Committee by some witnesses is, What is the use of our emigrating for the purpose of benefiting those who remain behind in our trade, if you allow that trade to be flooded by foreign immigrants?

There is one remark that I should like to make, namely, that the evil is perhaps more difficult to deal with even than that; because to a certain extent even if you emigrate people from this country, and prohibit the immigration of other people, you do not quite get rid of the competition of these other people whom you prohibit coming into this country; because, if you make the prohibition very stringent indeed, and prevent them coming, you may have a development of the same industries by the same people in foreign countries, which would compete with you, although you prevent them coming to this country and fixing themselves physically here. There is always that element of possible competition.

32083. You mean, in fact, that you would not draw any great distinction between the competition of the labour and the competition of the products of the labour?

Economically I do not see that there is much distinction. For other reasons it may be very important indeed to draw a distinction, but economically I do not see that you can draw a distinction very well.

32084. That is an argument that would affect emigration in general, as the emigration to our Colonies?

I think so. And with regard to emigration I think I may point out what is very present to the minds of most people who are statisticians, that we hardly think in the present state of the world that it is a remedy which can be a standby, even if it was a good one at any time, for any great length of time, owing to the rapidity with which the new countries of the world are being settled up. It seems very striking when one puts it, but I have made calculations myself, and other people have also made calculations based upon the present rate of increase of different populations; and it is shown that if in the United States

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for instance, the present rate of the increase of population goes on, you will have a thousand millions of people in the United States, or a larger population per square mile than what we have now in this country, in the course of a century. It is not altogether a calculation in the air, because similar calculations were made about a century ago; one of them in a book by a Dr. Campbell, a very good statistician of the last century. I find that about a century ago Campbell made a calculation as to what the population of British North America would be at this time (this was before the separation of the United States), and it comes out very exactly what he predicted; so that these observations of the rate of increase can be made use of in that way, and you are quite sure what the state of things will be at no very distant interval, unless some great economic change happens. Therefore what we are bound to say is that we are on the eve, in all probability, of some very great economic change as regards the possibilities of emigration; and I think, myself, in the course of the next 25 years we shall see a very great difference, and that these hesitations in the United States, and difficulties they are raising about immigration, are only the beginning and sign of a great change which is going on, and which will be felt very much more in a few years.

32085. A change in what direction, do you mean?

In the shutting up, the closing up, of new countries to which it is possible for emigrants to go. The time is fast running out in which that thing, if it is a remedy, can be availed of as a remedy.

32086. That opens up a very large field of inquiry, into which I will not go; but I take it from you that you do not look upon emigration as affording a probable solution of the evils in the circumstances that have been brought before the Committee?

I think the evil is of a much more radical and deep-seated nature, and requires a very prolonged study indeed before people can find out exactly how it ought to be dealt with.

32087. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] One question about the Alien Law; did I rightly understand you to say that there would be a considerable difficulty in getting returns in certain ports with regard to immigration from certain foreign ports; would it not be a fact that you would have practically only to deal with a few lines of steamers. For instance, take the immigration from Hamburg to London, would it require a great deal of clerical work in order to get the returns of immigration?

Yes, I think it would require a very considerable amount of clerical work; and it is not merely the returns, but the moment you come to deal with a matter of that kind statistically, you have got a considerable amount of correspondence and investigations, because the returns come to you in a shape that you cannot accept them, and that causes a very large amount of clerical work to be done.

32088. Your opinion is that it would involve a great deal of labour for practically very little return?

That it would not complete the subject.

32089. That it would be so incomplete that it would not be worth the labour?

I think it would not be worth the labour expended on it.

32090. *Chairman*.] Have you anything else you wish to say?

There is nothing else that I thought of saying, beyond the information that I have given you.

32091. It is possible that when their Lordships see your evidence in print they may have some questions that they would like to ask you later on; you have given us figures which it is difficult to follow at once. I have no doubt you would be willing to come again if the Committee should desire it?

Yes.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

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MR JOHN BURNETT, having been re-called, is further Examined ; as follows :

32092. *Chairman.*] You are the Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade ?

Yes.

32093. And you made a Report about the Sweating System in Leeds ?

Yes.

32094. We have not had it formally put in evidence ; will you put it in ?

Yes. (*Handing in the same, vide Appendix.*)

32095. Have you anything you wish to say concerning that Report ?

I think that the Committee has already had so much valuable evidence from Leeds that it will be unnecessary for me to say anything supplementary.

32096. Have you followed the evidence that has been given before this Committee ?

I have followed it very carefully.

32097. Speaking generally, do you consider that the evidence that has been given before the Committee is sufficient ?

I think it has been very full indeed, and that the ground has been remarkably well covered.

32098. In your experience, does sweating exist in other trades that have not been examined before the Committee ?

If so, to a very limited extent. I have no definite information about other trades.

32099. And as to the witnesses that have been examined before the Committee, in your opinion, may they be taken as fairly representing the different aspects and views of the case ?

So far as my knowledge goes, I think the witnesses on both sides have been admirably representative, and well selected.

32100. I suppose that the revival that has taken place in trade generally has had some effect in reducing the extent of the evils which have been brought before the notice of the Committee, has it not ?

To a certain extent that is so.

32101. Not to a very large extent ?

Not to a very large extent. The effect of the revival has been to increase wages considerably ; that has had a palliative effect on what I may term the general situation ; but the general evils complained of still remain.

32102. We have had a great deal of evidence latterly to the effect that excessive competition is the cause and root of most of the evils complained of ; have you any opinion as to whether the competition originated in competition between masters or in competition on the part of labour ?

I think it originated in a competition between masters, between employers, but that the evil of extensive competition has been intensified by competition between labourers also.

32103. Would you say that excessive competition among masters brought about the extreme cheapness of production which has been mentioned, and that the public taste for cheapness has been educated to a large extent by this cheap production ?

The effect of the competition has been undoubtedly to reduce prices, especially the prices paid to labour, but I would not like to say that there has been a very definite reduction of prices to the consumer within, say the last 12 or 14 years.

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32104. You

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32104. You think not?

I think not to the consumer; but all things have been tending to cause a reduction in price to the consumer; that is the greater cheapness of cloth and the improvement of machinery and other natural causes.

32105. But you do not think that the consumer benefits to the full amount that he ought to by the increased cheapness of production?

He has not benefited as much as he ought to have done from the reduction in price which has taken place.

32106. Do you consider with regard to this sweating, as it is called, that the tendency of it is to spread, to make itself felt in trades where it formerly did not exist at all?

I think so; I think the tendency is for it to spread.

32107. Have you any suggestions that you would wish to make to the Committee?

I have no suggestions as to remedies in any way. It has been my duty rather to collect facts than to form opinions as to remedies.

32108. I forget whether you told us on the former occasion what assistance you had in your Department?

My Department is a somewhat peculiar one. Practically speaking it is not a Department. I am placed under Mr. Giffen, who is really the head of the Department. Mr. Giffen directs generally the collection and preparation of all statistics which refer to labour. The collection of statistics referring to the wages of labour is at the present time being worked from No. 1, Whitehall, which is a Department of the Board of Trade; and my own special Department, the work of which is to collect any general statistics and facts about labour which it may be directed to collect by Mr. Giffen, is at the Board of Trade, and I have under me two Lower Division clerks.

32109. Do you find yourself able to carry out your work efficiently with that staff?

Not so quickly as I should like to carry it out.

32110. Do you find much difficulty in London, or Leeds, or elsewhere in getting information from the people, the operatives?

Comparatively little. Some of them are very willing to give information, and some of them while not unwilling are unable to find time, or are unable in many cases to fill in the simple forms which we require to have filled in.

32111. We have had it stated by some witnesses before the Committee that witnesses are very reluctant to come forward and give evidence, for fear of the consequences to themselves; do you think that is likely to be the case?

That is so in some cases. I have no doubt it would be so in the case of the Leeds tailors, for instance, and there would be such a fear on the part of the chain and nail-makers in the Staffordshire district.

32112. Lord Clinton.] Do not you think that by improved sanitary arrangements and by additional inspection, owing to an increased number of inspectors, some of the most serious evils of the sweating system might be removed?

Such measures would tend to mitigate the evils.

32113. Have you not known that the things complained of in most cases are the very bad sanitary arrangements and the difficulty of inspection, owing to the small number of inspectors?

Yes; I have found those to be evils of the system.

32114. And if those were remedied, very great improvement might be made; the evils, I mean, of what is called the sweating system, would very much diminish?

I think it would tend to mitigate the evils of the system; but in my opinion the whole of the sweating system is wrong in principle; I think it is false in principle.

32115. But it is more easy to apply remedies in that direction than in the direction of interfering with the hours of labour or wages?

Undoubtedly

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Undoubtedly those are remedies which would be the most easy of application.

32116. *Chairman.*] That would be dealing with the effects of the system, but not the causes?

Yes, that is so.

32117. Have you in your own mind any way in which you could define the causes of the sweating system, and have you got any idea how they could be dealt with?

I am afraid the matter at present is rather one for the workers than for the Legislature; that is, so far as the elementary evils of the system are concerned.

32118. You mean that they are to be met by combination?

I think so. I think combination would do a great deal.

32119. Then is it not the fact that the poverty of these people is so great that it is hardly possible for them to combine; that it is impossible for them to subscribe among themselves the funds?

Their poverty is sometimes made an excuse, but I do not think it so great as to prevent them; and, therefore, where combination becomes an absolute necessity, it ought to be provided for and paid for almost the same as any other necessary of life.

32120. But there are other necessities of life which come first. Then may I take it from you that you think, so far as your personal opinion is concerned, that its probable remedy lies in combination among the workers?

Yes, I think that would be one remedy.

32121. Do you see any way in which the State could interfere with advantage, except in the way mentioned by Lord Clinton with regard to better inspection?

I do not see any way, beyond those steps, in which the State could interfere with advantage.

32122. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Have you come across anything of a feeling on the part of labour as to Government control. I mean whether they desire to have remedies applied by Government, or would be willing to undergo the control that would be required by any thing like stringent regulations made by the Legislature?

There is undoubtedly a growing feeling in that direction at the present time.

32123. And do you think it exists among the more thoughtful portion of the labouring classes, or chiefly among those whose only idea is that it is an evil, and that something ought to be done?

Chiefly among the latter class. I think that the idea also extends amongst the former class.

32124. *Chairman.*] As to compulsory registration of places where work is carried on, do you think that would be approved of or resented by people generally?

It would be resented by the people to whom it was applied.

32125. Do you mean resented on account of limiting their liberty to work as long as they chose, or on the ground of unnecessary interference with their private affairs?

On the ground of unnecessary interference.

32126. Some witnesses have suggested the necessity of a limitation on adult male labour; have you any opinion on that point?

I have not formed any opinion on that point.

32127. On the other hand, it has been suggested to us that if the existing law affecting women's labour were not evaded, it would be impossible to compel men to work the excessively long hours that they now work; that is to say, that unless the women evaded the law, either by being smuggled out of the way

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when the inspector arrived, or by being compelled to take work home, they would not be able to furnish enough material for the men to work on for the excessive long hours?

I have heard some sweater employers say that they did not employ women, that they would only employ men, because if they employed women, they were limited by the Factory Act, but if they employed men they could work them as long as they pleased.

32128. And they therefore did not employ women at all?

And therefore they did not employ women at all.

32129. But it is a fact, is it not, that a large proportion of the work is done by women?

A very large proportion of it.

32130. And do you think that if the law was enforced that limits the hours of women's work, it would have any effect in consequently limiting the hours of men's work?

It would have a very slight effect. I think that forms a very small portion of the evil.

32131. Then it has also been represented to us, that what I might term outsiders working occasionally at home, are a source of great hardship to the people who are regularly employed in a trade; for instance, that in the nail and chain trade, while the men in the trade are out of work outsiders earn a few shillings by working at night, and so interfere greatly with people regularly employed in the trade; do you think that that is the case?

That is the case undoubtedly; although the interference with the labour, or the effect upon the labour of the other people, is not very great, because it is only done in special cases and to a comparatively limited extent; the whole of the work done that way, in fact, is a mere drop in the ocean.

32132. It is a fact, is it not, in the east of London, that a good many women have taken to doing common sewing of various kinds on account of the fact that their husbands are out of work?

Yes.

32133. And consequently the competition in the trade has become very severe. I suppose better employment for the men in better times would be likely to cause some relief to the women working at home?

I would not be quite sure about that; because women having become accustomed to do work in that way do not willingly give it up but would be inclined to stick to it as a means of increasing the family income.

32134. Is there anything else you would like to suggest to the Committee?

In looking over the evidence given before the Committee some time ago, I observed that Mr. Hoare, the factory inspector for the Wolverhampton district, made some criticisms upon my Report.

32135. Which Report?

Upon my Report on the chain and nail trade. He says, on page 465, at Question 23185: "There is a passage here on page 42 of Mr. Burnett's Report, where speaking of Anvil-yard, he says, 'A region of squalor and dirt far surpassing anything I have yet seen. Rents are high here, and range from 3 s. to 4 s. In one case a covered drain running past the end of a dwelling-house, struck damp through the house wall from floor to ceiling; open drains everywhere, carrying off household refuse' (household refuse would be simply slop water) 'and ruinous privies, with overflowing ashpits, loading the atmosphere with the most pungent odours.' Well, I maintain that that is an excessive statement to make. Anvil-yard was not in that state, though you can put it into words. One man can convey it that way. If I had been giving a description of it, I should have been very sorry to have given it in that way." And then he goes on in his next answer, in answer to the question, "You would not describe it in quite such strong terms?" "No, unless I wanted to rouse popular enthusiasm to take up the question; then I might feel inclined to do it, but I should feel a bit ashamed if I came to be cross-examined

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examined on it." I wish to say to the Committee that my words are an absolutely correct statement of the condition of Anvil-yard, as I then saw it; that was on the 8th October of last year.

32136. I think we had it in evidence that the condition had been improved latterly?

I am here to be cross-examined about the place, if your Lordships' Committee think it necessary; but I wish to point out that Mr. Hoare knew nothing whatever about the state of Anvil-yard on the day of my visit. At page 467, Question 23199 (he has referred to Anvil-yard), he says, "That is exaggerated." In his next answer he says, "I consider Anvil-yard the worst I know in the whole district." One of your Lordships put the question, "And the description of that yard is highly coloured?" and Mr. Hoare's answer is, "I think so: though I should like to say that I did not see it until some six weeks after Mr. Burnett saw it."

32137. You infer from that that the condition of Anvil-yard might have been improved, or was improved during those six weeks?

He did not see the place until six weeks after I was there; therefore he absolutely knew nothing about it at the time in question; and it was some time after the attention of the authorities had been aroused as to the state of the locality, and some improvements had been made. Mr. Benjamin Thompson is the sanitary officer for the district in which Anvil-yard is situated. He gave evidence before your Lordships' Committee a few days before Mr. Hoare. He naturally makes out as good a case as possible for his district; but on page 376, beginning at Question 22351, there are these questions and answers: "Is Anvil-yard in Cradley?—(A.) Anvil-yard is in Cradley. (Q.) Do you consider the sanitary condition of Anvil-yard satisfactory?—(A.) It is not bad now. (Q.) When you say it is not bad now, since when has it improved?—(A.) Within this last two or three months. (Q.) You say that till within the last two or three months it was in a bad condition?—(A.) Yes; there were certain drains that were stopped up. I spoke to the property-owner on several occasions about the matter; he was rather lax in attending to it; ultimately I served a notice upon him, and got the work done. (Q.) When did you serve the notice on him?—(A.) Just before Mr. Oram came. (Q.) Do you know when that was?—(A.) I am not in possession of the date; I think it was in January;" and on the next page, at Question 22365, he is speaking about an outbreak of typhoid fever which took place in this locality a short time before, and in the middle of his answer he says: "In November 1888 there were about 20 cases of typhoid broke out; suspicion then rested upon this well. Myself and Doctor Turner, the medical officer of health, had put forth every effort to try to ascertain its cause. A sample of the water was again tested and found to contain a large quantity of organic matter." The evidence of another witness, Mr. Adolphe Smith, who was the Special Correspondent of the "Lancet," goes to show that the state of the water in this pump was entirely due to the state of the surface drainage of Anvil-yard.

32138. Then I take it from you that you maintain that your description was not in any way exaggerated at the time when you saw the place?

If your Lordships would like to follow the matter up I can find any amount of justification for my statement, from the evidence of witnesses from the locality.

32139. I think we do not require anything more of that kind?

And if the Earl of Aberdeen had been present, I think he would have been able to corroborate me, inasmuch as he visited the place a few days before I did; and the character of the questions put by him on pages 378 and 379 will show what in his opinion was the condition of Anvil-yard.

32140. Is there anything else you would like to say?

There is nothing else I would like to say.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be Adjourned to To-morrow,
at Eleven o'clock.

Die Martis, 16^o Julii, 1889.

LORDS PRESENT:

Lord ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Lord CLINTON.

Lord CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH.

Lord KENRY (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*).

Lord SANDHURST.

Lord ROTHSCHILD.

Lord MONKSWELL.

LORD KENRY (EARL OF DUNRAVEN AND MOUNT-EARL),
IN THE CHAIR.

MR. GEORGE SHIPTON, is called in ; and having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

32141. *Chairman.*] You are the President of the Trades Council, are you not ?

I am Secretary of the London Trades Council, which is a federation of trade societies consisting of 64 different associations, embracing 50 separate and distinct trades, with a total number of subscribing members of 25,949 in the metropolitan district.

32142. Would those trades and branches of trades which have been principally dealt with by this Committee come under your notice as forming part of your federation ?

The whole of the trades connected with the council have come under my observation and investigation ; in fact, I have made inquiries of all of them as to how far the system of sweating affects them, and in some cases I have been able to get evidence, in other cases none whatever. In some cases sweating is unknown ; that is more especially so where the trades union is strong ; the weaker the union the more subject are the trades to the sweating system.

32143. Can you tell the Committee in what trades you find that sweating does exist ?

In the tailors, boot and shoemakers, and cabinet makers principally. In the building trades I should say there is a system not of sweating but of sub-letting and of sub-contracting, which produces very much the same results.

32144. Do you think it produces as bad results ?

Almost as bad as the sweating, though it comes up in another form ; it is done in task-work between workmen and workmen, and sub-letting to needy employers ; and these men compete very severely one against the other ; all of which tends to scamping the work and lowering the wages of the actual workers.

32145. We had a letter from one of the building trades saying that they did not propose to give any evidence ?

Would that be from Mr. Dew, who is secretary of the Carpenters' and Joiners' Committee ?

32146. I see there is a letter from yourself, of the 23rd of May last, to Mr. Thesiger, in which you say : " After consulting with the representatives of the building trades, I have to say that we do not propose to offer evidence as to the

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sweating system in connection with those trades. Mr. Dew will doubtless reply to your letter if he has any special evidence to give ;” and no communication was received from Mr. Dew.

I found that to be the case ; there is no evidence to be obtained of the actual sweating system, as understood as such in the building trades ; and that may be attributed to the trades unionism which exists. Though small in comparison with the number of the men employed, they have been able largely to defend themselves against direct sweating, and the evil which they complain of crops up in another form, in the shape of sub-letting work, sub-contracting, which work of course has to be sub-let at a lower rate than obtained under the original contract, the difference being made up in the reduction of wages, and employing bad material, and scampering the work instead of carrying it out fairly according to the specification of the architect.

32147. You are a builder yourself, are you not, by trade ?

I have served my apprenticeship as a house decorator and painter, and have been associated with the building trades since as secretary of the Amalgamated House Decorators’ and Painters’ Society.

32148. I take it your opinion is that there is something analogous to sweating, as presented before this Committee, that exists in the building trades, but that you think that owing to the strength of the trades’ unionists it is not to be found in a very large proportion in those trades ?

That is so. And the other thing which we have not been able to prevent is the sub-letting. But speaking of the evidence of the witnesses whose evidence I have read in the printed report supplied by your Lordships’ Committee, I think the statements of the witnesses are true in fact, and well bear out the statement that sweating does exist in those trades which have given specific evidence. I think the witnesses have been well chosen, and that further evidence would only tend to confirm and to make more voluminous the character of the evidence that has already been given.

32149. You think that the evidence before the Committee is sufficient to enable the Committee to judge of the facts of the case ?

I think so, unless any witness had special evidence to give.

32150. And that sweating does not exist, at any rate to any great extent, in other trades ?

So far as I have been able to ascertain from information, I have not been able to get direct evidence. The subject has been before our delegate meetings from time to time, and evidence asked for ; but I ought to say this : I think there might have been more evidence given, especially in the basket-making trade, but that the men have expressed to me personally their great difficulty, because if they came up and gave direct evidence of things which are going on, they would be marked and lose their employment, and that has seemed so serious to them as working men that they have hesitated to come and give the evidence that they could. There can be no doubt that sweating does exist in that particular trade and in others, though there has been this difficulty in getting the witnesses to come forward publicly and testify to the facts.

32151. In your opinion would the sweating that you say exists in other trades be much the same as in the trades that have already been examined into ?

I think in character precisely the same.

32152. But you think that the operatives are afraid of giving evidence ?

Yes, they told me that personally ; and I have every reason to believe it, for I know the seriousness of a man being marked by one or a number of employers in that way.

32153. You have read the evidence given before the Committee ?

I have.

32154. I should like to ask you your opinion as to the great competition which apparently prevails ; that is to say, whether the competition is more severe among the labourers or among the masters ?

I think

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I think the severity of the competition among the workpeople is brought about by the severity of the competition among employers; it is more especially forced by unscrupulous employers, who depress wages, and use every industrial advantage over the workmen; and they drive to some extent better employers, employers who would live upon the principle of live and let live, into severity of competition, and bring about a depression in that way.

32155. We have had it suggested that in fact the competition is so severe that the employers, especially the small masters, are in fact powerless; they cannot help themselves; they are driven to drive the men they employ as much as they possibly can?

There is a great deal of force in that statement, There is a very unhealthy and unnatural competition between a number of employers, for which there is no necessity. It only tends to degrade the whole character of the trade, and is injurious even to some of themselves. Then the competition among workpeople is brought about by what we call competitive piece-work. Workmen do not object, so far as I have ever been able to learn, to price list piece-work, that is to say, where, by joint deliberation between employers and workpeople, a fair price has been placed upon a given class of work when produced; the workmen like that system; but where one man is set against the other, and you get the very lowest you can, the result is that the man produces the work at a price not according to the value of the work done, but according to what his necessities compel him or drive him to accept for it.

32156. It has also been suggested to us that the competition among the masters is the origin and cause of the great cheapness of production of an inferior and cheaper class of goods than formerly were produced?

I think the severity of the unhealthy competition does produce a class of shoddy goods, and that there is not a natural demand for shoddy. On the other hand, people like to get value for their money, but they prefer an article that has utility and gracefulness about it, a durable article instead of a fraud. Perhaps where otherwise you buy one article, you have to buy it two or three times over, because it is soon gone and destroyed, compared with the good article for which you would pay rather more.

32157. If that be so, would not the evil tend to remedy itself; if the class of goods is inferior, and if people, as you say, would prefer a better article, how is it it does not remedy itself, that people do not cease to buy these very cheap goods?

Sometimes they do not do so through want of knowledge, and sometimes again, by the severity of competition, and depression in their own industry, they have not the means.

32158. When you spoke just now of a price being settled between the men and the employers, do you mean between the unions and the employers?

Yes; I have not known non-union men ever arrange with the employers for any prices. I have a little code of working rules that we drew up in 1872 for the Master Builders' Association. I was secretary to the committee of the working men; it represented the painters, smiths and metal workers, plasterers, and the labourers. The employers were, Mr. B. Hannen (chairman of the Masters' Association), Mr. George Trollope, Mr. Christopher Jackson, Mr. James M. Macey, Mr. William Brass, and Mr. S. G. Bird (honorary secretary). We agreed to the number of working hours in the summer time being 52½ per week; in the winter time, for so many months, 48½ per week; and the rate of wages for overtime during the evening, or on Saturday afternoon, or for Sunday work, if necessity drove us to work overtime on those days; and that has been in operation ever since.

32159. When was that started?

In 1872.

32160. Then it would be in your opinion, I suppose, the fact that the men belonging to the unions are in a superior position, as regards wages, as compared with the non-union men?

Yes, that is distinctly my opinion; they have been able to maintain a higher rate

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rate than the non-union men have done, or are able to do, because they have no organised defence.

32161. It follows then, that these union men, I suppose, are not working at all in these cases where very low wages are paid?

I have a case now of a Government contract being carried out by Mr. William Brass, one of the signatories to that agreement. Our rate of wages, recognised by the union, is $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour for a good house decorator and painter. One of the members of my association went to work for Mr. Brass at the General Post Office now in course of construction, and thought he was to have the usual wages, $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour. On Saturday he was paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per hour less, namely, 7 d.; and a summons has now been taken out by the member, supported by the society, against Mr. Brass, to recover the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. difference in the wages. That is what we complain of; that Government, instead of insisting upon the wages being paid which are paid in all the good firms, give their work out to men who really pay less than the current wages of the district.

32162. By the "current wages of the district," you would mean the wages settled between the employers and the union?

Yes, settled and paid by employers who have to come under the influence of public competition.

32163. We have had a good deal of evidence and a good many suggestions before the Committee, as to the registration of workshops, and it has been suggested that the workshops should be registered compulsorily and subject to inspection; all places, even where work is carried on, even where only members of the same family are at work; have you any opinion about that?

Yes; I am very strongly of opinion that that should be done. I think, in the public interest, that where work is carried out which does affect the public life, and health, and interest, those shops that are used for the production of work for the support of a family, those portions of the house where work is carried on, should be open to inspection.

32164. Do you think that would be considered acceptable by the people affected by it?

I think if they are honestly inclined it would not be unsatisfactory. If they choose to use their houses for the production of work, I do not think they should be allowed to escape the public observation to see that the work is carried on under conditions that are not injurious to public interests. There are many things done by the law as to which you do not ask the people whether they like them or not. It is in the public interest, and I do not see why one section of the community should escape more than the other.

32165. You think this is so much in the public interest that it ought to be done, whether it was popular or unpopular?

I do.

32166. Then we have also had many suggestions as to the necessity of limiting male labour, and that question has been put before us mainly on the ground of the necessity of putting some stop to the excessively long hours of labour?

I think the trades' unionists of the kingdom would be opposed to any state limitation of the hours of labour as applied to adult males; but where women and men are working side by side, I do not think they would be, because we have always resented any interference by the State in fixing the hours of labour of men who are perfectly free to combine and defend themselves in that way; and that has been done very successfully in this country. I know in the county of Durham the miners on an average work six hours a day; but then they have 42,000 members in their union; and my opinion is that it could be done by organisation much better and much more effectually than law could do. With regard to women, they are more the creatures of circumstances; they are not free; they are under almost the subjugation of husbands or parents, or there is some other influence over them, and they do not combine, as a matter of fact, except where they are members of the unions with the men, as is the case greatly in the weaving and spinning districts of Lancashire. I think in
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the Spinning Union, where they have 26,000 members, half of them pretty well are women.

32167. Do I understand you to say that where men and women are employed together the men's hours ought to be limited?

I think so in that case.

32168. The effect of that would be that the women would not be employed at all, would it not?

I think not; in some trades female labour is very necessary, and is desired by the men. The trade unionists only insist upon women being employed at the same rate when they do the same work and give the same quality of execution.

32169. I do not want to go into the general question of the Eight Hours Bill, or anything of that kind, because it does not belong to our inquiry; but I should like to put this question to you: I understand that, in your opinion, the men are quite capable, by their own combining, of reducing the hours of labour to what they consider reasonable; but would not their power depend a great deal upon how far the production of their labour came into competition with the production of foreign labour?

It would to some extent, no doubt; but still in trades where foreign competition does occur, there, if the trade is well organised, they are able to absorb the importations of foreign labour. For instance, take compositors, that is a trade which is largely affected by Italian, German, and French workmen; but as a rule, with regard to these foreigners who come to London (especially to London, because there is a wider field for them; I mean there is more type-setting in different languages in London than in any other place in the kingdom), the society is practically able to absorb them.

32170. I am speaking not so much of the labour itself, but of the production of the labour. You mentioned just now the case of coal; it is obvious that a strong union of miners might be able to make their own arrangements as to the hours of labour, because there is no competition of foreign coal; how would the case be where there is a strong competition of foreign goods?

I do not know any trade in the country, where the union is strong, which has been seriously affected either by the importation of labour or of goods. Of course in the case of the importation of foreign goods the necessity and usefulness for union would be two-fold, first, maintaining the highest wages possible, and second, by wise regulation of its action, prevent loss of trade more than was inevitable.

32171. I do not wish to go into that subject at length; but the chief reason that has been given before this Committee for limiting male labour, is to put a stop to the excessive hours which are exacted from some of the people engaged in the trades we have examined, namely, 16, 18, or 20 hours of the 24, perhaps for two or three days consecutively; does any way suggest itself to you whereby that evil could be minimised?

If the men will do nothing to defend themselves, I really do not see how the law is going to effectually compass it; because if you were to pass a law of that description it would require a perfect army of inspectors to see it carried out; and if you begin with one class of adult male labour, it must go up through the whole social fabric.

32172. You do not think it would be possible to confine it to certain trades or to certain branches of trade, or to those branches of trade at certain periods, as has been suggested?

Not unless they were very dangerous trades, for instance, the manufacture of chemicals or lead.

32173. It is a fact, is it not, that the tendency is to employ more and more female labour, in proportion to the male in certain trades?

I think so, on account of the lower wages.

32174. Do you consider that objectionable?

Yes, I do; because in the end it must have a very injurious effect. There are men capable of living upon the industry of women, I mean respectable industry, and if the women are to take the places of men, it must have a tendency to social degradation; I think the man should be the breadwinner,

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and be able to keep his wife or his children by his labour, instead of driving them at an early age into the labour market. It must have a wholesale degenerating influence.

32175. If you consider that objectionable, have you any idea how you would deal with it?

Only by limiting the hours of female labour, not allowing men to take an advantage of their being employed a very long time.

32176. But their hours are limited now in factories and workshops?
Is the point that the hours should be still lessened.

32177. Do you think that the hours are too long?

If anything, I think they might be lessened; but I do not know whether I am prepared to advocate that they should be lessened from what they are at present without a more distinct demand from the women's side.

32178. I think your former answer shows that you would be in favour of applying the existing law to women working in their own homes?

Yes; if used as a shop where more than herself were employed.

32179. Have you anything to say as to the employment of children and young persons?

I think the Factory and Workshop Act might be amended, if anything, to raise the age of children being allowed to work at all. My own opinion strongly is, that no child should be allowed to work under 11, and much rather say 12 or 13 gradually attained; and they should only be allowed to work half-time now till they were 13.

32180. Do you consider it is injurious to them to work at all except under those limitations?

I do, and degenerating to their whole future. Some people say, I know that parents have to live. Well, if they had no children at all they would have to live somehow; I do not see what moral right they have to live upon the industry of their children.

32181. It has been complained before the Committee a good deal, that owing to the minute subdivision of work in some trades, and the want of apprenticeship, it is practically impossible for a man to acquire a real practical knowledge of his business; that he can only do some particular minute portion of the trade, and that makes him very dependent; is that the case do you think?

I regret to say that is so. In my experience, instead of a man being taught the whole of his particular trade, he is only taught a section of it, and when his labour is required, he is only wanted for a short time, which begets a very great precariousness of employment, and that has a very demoralising influence upon men. When they feel that they may be in work one week and out another, and that is constantly going on from year to year, it naturally makes them hopeless as to anything like permanent social progress.

32182. This subdivision is a perfectly natural process, I presume, is it not?

Yes; but I do not see any necessity why a man or a youth should not be taught more than one branch of his trade, so that if he was short in one particular section of that trade he might turn his hand to another, and so be more regularly in employment.

32183. That might be an advantage to him; how could it be brought about?

The employers, I think, certainly should do their share, because they derive money and advantage from the employment of labour. And, then again, such public institutions as are started should aim at teaching youths the whole of the branches of their trade, I mean such as the Polytechnic and other institutions of that character subscribed to by public funds; or, if the State would pass a law, I think that the aim should be to give a lad the full knowledge of the constructive part of his whole trade.

32184. You think technical education would be of use?

If carried out in that way. If it is technical education simply to enable workmen to produce that which pretends to be what it is not, a sort of scientific dodgery,

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dodgery, then I prefer to have the old English system of producing a good article without the appearance of being so when it is not; like a good many things that are in the market now.

32185. But do you think also that employers ought to be obliged to teach the whole of the trade, or more than one subdivision of the trade, to the learner?

I cannot see my way to forcing employers to do that; because I believe, under the competitive system that we exist under now, it would be rather unfair to the employer to expect him to do so in a single shop, unless you could carry it out universally; but I think it is the duty of the employer to aim at that as far as possible, and where you get scientific institutions set apart for teaching in technical and other branches of work which underlie the practice of the craft, I think these public institutions should aim at teaching not only one branch, but all that naturally and properly belongs to the distinct trade, with a view to prevent this precariousness of employment.

32186. Speaking generally, have you got any idea, any suggestions to make, as to the question, in what way the State could interfere to abate the evils complained of as existing under the sweating system?

I think if the Government were to begin by insisting, with regard to all its work done and paid for by the public funds, that those who obtain contracts should pay the current wages of the district wherever it was done, that would afford a good example; but beyond that I do not see how the State can interfere, except so far as where abuses exist, it may prevent those abuses.

32187. Do you mean by abuses, abuses in matters of sanitation, and so on?

Matter of sanitation and proper inspection, with an effective enforcement of existing laws.

32188. Well, have you anything to suggest as to inspection and sanitation?

I think that the inspectors should be armed with more power to enter premises duly registered at all reasonable hours, as is done now in other directions. If the inspector has no power to enter a registered factory or workshop without notice, the abuses that are complained of get removed by the time that he obtains an entrance into the factory, and I certainly see no reason why, if a workshop is registered, as it should be, the inspector should not have power to go at any reasonable time, and walk into the place with full power, armed by the law to do so, and see the work carried out as it is, from day to day, or from time to time. Then, again, I think that the inspector should have reasonable powers to order, not anything with regard to the general sanitary condition of the whole building, that should be left to the sanitary inspector, but anything immediately pressing, such as making the workshop healthy from a sanitary point of view. There are many things in which a practical inspector would know what to do, and what to order, and I think he should have the power to do that as immediately affecting the workshop itself, where the people were employed.

32189. Have you any opinion as to whether the existing number of factory inspectors is sufficient?

I do not think they are at all adequate to the work to be done; and I think it would be well if a number of practical workmen who have been through the fire themselves were appointed as assistant sub-inspectors at reasonable wages. I believe there are many good and competent men to be found who would throw their hearts into that work and really give effect to the law; and that would destroy a large number of the abuses complained of.

32190. Do you mean that you think some technical knowledge of the trade would be an advantage to an assistant inspector?

Yes, I think so, because he would know how the law is evaded, and prevent that; and then there is a confidence between the workmen themselves and one of their own order, a man who has lived their life and known their necessities; they prefer to deal with a man who has knowledge on these points, and to communicate anything to him rather than to someone who does not understand

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stand their life, and has never lived it, and possibly would not comprehend fully what was said, even if he desired to do so.

32191. You think that a superior working man would be useful to obtain information from the working men and to explain it to the inspector?

I do ; I think that.

32192. Then I gather from you that you think that practically the State could interfere with advantage only in seeing that the inspection is more effective, and that sanitary regulations are more thoroughly carried out, and, I presume, also in other respects where the Truck Act and other Acts of Parliament appear practically to be evaded ?

I am strongly of opinion that the evidence brought before this Committee has had a very healthy effect, and has mitigated many abuses by the mere exposure of them ; and if the spirit of the outcome of this inquiry were maintained by proper supervision, and the removal of these abuses complained of, no doubt a great and healthy beneficial change will have been completed.

32193. As far as I understand you, as far as the Government contracts are concerned, what you complain of is that Government allow them to be taken out and fulfilled by persons who do not pay the ruling wages ?

That is so ; and the Government loses some of the best skill of the country in consequence of that, because the moment the men find that the wages are so much below the current rate they immediately leave, and the Government work is done by an inferior class of labour ; there is no doubt about that. And at the same time we do not ask the Government to do more than other public bodies have recently agreed to do. Take the School Board for London and the County Council ; they have agreed that no contract shall be given to persons who do not pay the current rate of wages.

32194. The result of that would be, would it not, that you would compel the Government to give out their contracts only to people who pay certain rates of wages, and that the Government would have no voice whatever in determining what the wages would be ?

That applies exactly to the School Board and the County Council. It is easy to find out what is the current rate agreed upon by voluntary associations of employers and workmen in nearly every trade ; I do not know one where the rate has not been fixed by mutual conferences between employers and employed ; and if under the pressure of competition employers can agree to pay these wages, it would only be fair for the Government to say that they would only give their contracts to those carrying out the work under certain conditions. And we claim that on this ground : that in the long run it is far more beneficial for the State to pay such a wage to the workman as will enable him to live decently, and to throw upon the workman the responsibility of providing for himself. The trades unions of this country keep their own unemployed, and aged, and sick ; they spend millions of money in sustaining those who belong to them, with the advantage that they maintain their manly independence of character ; whereas if men are broken down in their wages, and get hard up from loss of employment, and have no fund to go to, they have to fall back upon the rates, which come from the pockets of the people, and in the long run you have broken down the man's independence and spirit of self-reliance, and after all you have to pay in another form ; and we think it is better that the State should give a living wage to begin with.

32195. I suppose you would say that the bulk of the most skilled labour in the country is to be found in the unions ?

I think that has been demonstrated over and over again.

32196. That the labour outside is comparatively unskilled ?

Not all ; there is a good deal of well-skilled labour outside ; but as a rule they follow the policy of the trade societies, and the trades unionists being a minority of the working population they could never succeed as they do but for the great support given to them by the non-unionists when there is any dispute or struggle. Of course they do work against us in the long run, because if
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workmen cannot be got under what is a fair living rate, the employer must pay it. It is in this respect that, having no pecuniary resources, the non-unionists become a drag on the unionists and retard their general progress.

32197. You think that the Government, by not employing contractors who pay the current rate of wages, though they get a cheaper article, do not get a good article, and that the cheapness is only apparent?

That is my contention. We know among ourselves that the work is scamped, and the word that passes round is, "Oh, anything will do for that job; it is only a Government job."

32198. Then I should gather from what you have said generally that you would look for an amelioration of the condition of these sweated classes to combination among themselves?

I think that is the great lever. I do not see how the State can possibly step in to tell a man what his degree of civilisation shall be; he must think that out to an extent for himself, and act in common with his fellow workers to determine what he shall do where there is an absolute abuse which could be remedied.

32199. Would it be possible for these men in the cheap clothing and the boot and shoemaking trades to combine effectively as long as they are subjected to a constant supply of foreign labour?

I think they could really; because in the very poorest trades we find that immediately they do have, if it is only a little organisation, their condition improves at once, or in trades where they are subject to competition by foreign workpeople coming.

32200. The facts alleged before the Committee are that this foreign labour is of an exceedingly cheap character, and that the people already in the business are very poor and could not afford to contribute much to a fund, and that it would be useless for them to combine because their places could always be supplied by this still cheaper foreign labour which steadily comes in; but I gather from you that you think that in spite of that an effective combination might be brought about?

I do not think there is any class of labour so low or degraded but what it could organise. Of course I do not think they could pay the same rates of contribution, or subscribe for the same advantages to begin with; but I believe that there is no class of labour so low or so degraded but what, if they chose, they could organise in some form or another, however small the contribution might be to begin with. It would not be altogether the rate of contribution that they might subscribe that would be the important point, but it would be the tacit organisation, a sort of feeling of unionism among themselves to support each other, and not to have their condition degraded in the way that it is by sweating employers through the fluctuations of workpeople coming from abroad; because in trades that are organised the foreign workmen are absorbed at once.

32201. What trades do you allude to?

The compositors, for instance, that I mentioned just now.

32202. But the foreign labour there would be skilled labour?

Yes, it would be skilled.

32203. That is not a case analogous to the case of these "greeners" who came into the tailoring and boot and shoe trades?

I cannot see that the State could really take charge of these men in any way, if they will not do it for themselves. No doubt the competition by foreign workmen coming in makes the struggle more bitter and severe.

32204. Do you think it would be advisable or not that any check should be put upon this immigration?

We have discussed that among the trades, and we find a very great difficulty in coming to any definite opinion upon the matter. We are rather afraid that it would limit the man's choice of living, say if a man is willing to labour and will only work under reasonable conditions and not conspire against the interests of his order by working under debasing conditions, we think that he

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should have the right to live wherever he chooses to go; and we are afraid that if a law were passed it might be worked (a great deal would depend upon the method and way in which it was administered) so as to prevent a man, perhaps oppressed in his own country, obtaining a livelihood in another country where he would be willing to work under reasonable conditions. It seems to us a cruel thing to deny a man the right to live, and we should be sorry, I am convinced of that, to do anything that would have that effect. At the same time, if it was proved that there was simply a pauper class shelved on to the English shores to live by charity or by dragging others down who had made sacrifices for their own improvement, I think that the State would have a right to interfere. It has a right to defend itself against an evil.

32205. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] You say that sweating only exists where the unions are weak; is that due, do you think, entirely to the want of organisation; is it not also due to the fact that the circumstances of foreign competition and other causes are so strong that it is very difficult for any organisation to live?

No doubt the competition does interfere to a great extent; but my opinion is that by the labour being organised they absorb the foreign labour which comes in, and are able really to obtain better terms and conditions than where there is no union.

32206. We have had one or two instances during the course of the inquiry of organisations that have been started and have apparently failed, as if the circumstances they had to contend against were too strong for them to make any headway?

No doubt the *morale* of the people affected by such conditions may be very weak; they may have very little energy, very little knowledge and determination; and probably that would account for their weakness in forming a union; but I cannot for a moment think that any labour is so degraded but what, as I said just now, it might, if it liked, combine.

32207. And with success?

And with success; but I should not expect the same degree of perfection among a branch of workpeople such as your Lordship is referring to now as among the higher and more skilled trades; men who had been in a better position, had better educational and other advantages.

32208. With regard to limiting the ages at which children can go to work, what is the earliest age now at which a child can go to work?

Not under 10 years of age; it varies in different parts of the country under the Education Act.

32209. But never under 10?

Never under 10.

32210. And do you think that the education that is given in such technical schools as at present exist is deficient in its quality; that it is not sufficiently thorough?

The best that I know of, from the industrial stand point combined with technical instruction (and I have gone through the institution several times, and with very great attention), is the Polytechnic in Regent-street. I have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Quintin Hogg, and the secretary, Mr. Mitchell, and there, I think, the very best system of instruction is adopted. They do not allow one man who takes to one trade to go into the class of another trade so as to demoralise it; because, if he desires to learn anything, he should learn that which appertains to his own distinct trade. They will not allow a tailor, for instance, to go into building trade classes, or anything of that kind; and they have a rule that, before a boy is admitted into any of the technical classes, he must be learning a trade by way of getting his living at some distinct industry.

32211. Do you mean that he must have already commenced?

He must have already commenced.

32212. Therefore it is impossible for a boy who works at no trade to select a trade, and to start in the school?

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It would be impossible; the boy must already have fixed upon a trade for himself, and then he can get all the instruction that can possibly be given to him in that trade.

32213. I do not quite understand what you mean by having "fixed upon a trade;" must he have served an apprenticeship in the trade before he can join the class, or may he join the class straight away from school?

He cannot join straight away from school, but must be engaged in the trade to which the class he wishes to enter refers.

32214. I am supposing that he has made up his mind?

Then he can go into the school and get all the theoretical instruction and workshop practice that he desires; one night is devoted to the theoretical and the other to the practical workshop training. But supposing a man is a draper's assistant, and wants to change and go into some trade and receive some technical instruction from a place like the Polytechnic, he could not get it, and we think very properly so. Or a clerk for instance; the man may be 24 years of age, and may be past being taught with any advantage to the trade itself.

32215. Do the trade unions give any information to the factory inspectors, or are they of any assistance to the factory inspectors in informing them of grievances or infringements of the law that exist?

Yes, that is done frequently; I know that in the case of the Compositors' Society, the secretary, Mr. Drummond, has frequently written privately to the factory inspector and given him information, which has been acted upon with great advantage to the workpeople.

32216. Do you think that that might be done to a greater extent than it is by trades unions?

I think it might be done to a large extent.

32217. One of the complaints that we have from the working classes is that the factory inspectors are not acquainted with the infringements of the law which are constantly taking place, or they have great difficulty in finding them out?

No doubt that is so. Then I think the staff of inspectors is very deficient, considering the enormous amount of work they have to do. If at any time workpeople were to give me information in the way of facts with regard to insanitary conditions or other bad conditions, I should be glad to write to the inspector for the division immediately, and post him up in the information. But in my own trade that does not occur; it is more in the trades where workshops exist than in the building trades. I mean there is no hesitation on the part of the trades unions to co-operate with the inspectors. On the contrary, they are only too glad to get cases brought to their knowledge, and then communicate them to the inspectors.

32218. But surely they are in a position to acquire a large amount of knowledge which might not come so readily to the inspector?

No doubt that would be so, and the trade societies would be prepared to co-operate with the inspectors to carry out any measure adopted by Parliament in mitigation of the evil.

32219. Lord *Monkswell*.] You talk about competition among masters being more severe than is necessary; what do you mean by "more severe than is necessary"?

I think there is more production going on than the wants of the people of the world require, and then the employers compete one against the other; and so, to use a common word, try to "dish" each other and get goods on to the market at a lower rate than their fellow employers, and so force a sale in that way.

32220. How would you stop that?

I cannot see any way for the State to step in and stop that.

32221. Do you mean by "competition more severe than is necessary," competition that might be got rid of by a possible combination among the masters?

I think the employers have as much right to combine as the workmen, and

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to say when competition is becoming so intense that the whole trade is being degraded and lowered, injured even from their own point of view, it is their duty to try and stop the abuse.

32222. Then would you like to see a combination among the masters not to accept work under a certain price, just as men combine to say that they will not work under a certain rate of wages?

I think it would be perfectly legitimate if an employer were to agree with another employer in adopting the same basis, paying the same wages, and working the same number of hours. Then there would still always be a desire to get work under the competitive system, and each employer would be put on his own merits as an employer, and if he were more skilful he would be able to obtain more work naturally by his skilful arrangements.

32223. Then you do not think it would be in the interest of the State, or of the employers, in the long run, that there should be a hard-and-fast line drawn, and that all the employers should agree not to take any contract under a given price per cubic foot, say, of building?

I do not think that would be useful or beneficial to the State to arbitrarily fix any price, because, without some check, they might fix an exorbitant price. What they could do very well would be to agree among themselves to certain fundamental things, such as wages and working hours; but as for saying that they would not do work under a given price, if within reason, I think it would be possible to bring that about among the employers. I think it would be beneficial for the State for that to be done.

32224. But the best employers do agree, do they not, to give the current wages?

Yes.

32225. And I have heard it said that the best builders will not compete under an open tender, but only where the competition is limited to builders bearing a good reputation in the trade; is that so in your experience?

Yes. I think that that kind of combination is in the public interest. If you see the work done, and know how it is done, from the workman's practical point of view, I believe that the customer gets all the advantage of the extra charge under those circumstances, both in look and durability, and in every other way.

32226. You were talking of the advantages of public bodies only employing persons who pay the current rate of wages, and you say that one of the advantages is that the unions keep their own unemployed; I do not understand that the unions keep their own unemployed, except where they are on strike or lock out; do they keep them if they are only out of work?

Yes; if they are only out of work, they are paid sums varying from, in my own union, 10 s. a week to as high as 15 s. a week. I think the Compositors' Society pay 15 s.

32227. For how long?

For three or four months in the year they draw so much.

32228. And then they draw less, I suppose?

Yes, after a certain period. Only the great thing is to bridge a man over a time of depression. If you give a man enough to pay his rent and some amount of living, he is able to pull himself round, and it prevents him going into actual debt, which is a great thing.

32229. I suppose you consider that a man has had a good chance of getting work if he has been paid for three months, and then that any man who does not get work after three months is looked upon with some suspicion, that he is not doing his utmost to get work?

Yes; and supposing an employer sends to the society house for a number of men, and they have a man on their funds who is capable of doing that work (that would be easily known), he is obliged to take it then; otherwise he forfeits his out-of-work pay.

32230. But you see this rule only to employ persons who pay the current rate of wages does not bind these public bodies not to make contracts with
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masters who do not employ union labour; so that if you wanted to carry your views into complete effect, you would like to see contracts only made with employers who employ union men?

We have never asked that, and I do not think we should be disposed to say that none but trades unionists should get the work. We, I think, can find a remedy for men being out of union; if one employer has to pay the same rate of wages as another, which is the current rate, we will say, then I think he will always try to get the best skill; and it would find its level, and then we should have an opportunity of enrolling the men in our union.

32231. What I feel myself about only making contracts with those who pay workmen the current rate of wages, is, that it is rather hard upon the workmen who are inferior; because, under a stipulation of that kind, naturally only the best workmen would be employed, and the bad workman would go to the wall; perhaps you would say that is a good thing?

I should rather let the bad workman go to the wall than the best man go to the wall; I would rather let the less skilled, who were devoid of all spirit of self-help, than the best skilled and self-reliant go to the wall.

32232. Supposing a man is naturally very slow in his work, and cannot earn 6 *d.* an hour, but only 4 *d.*, and still he is an industrious, sober man, if you prevent any man employing him under 6 *d.* an hour he would get no work at all?

At present many of the union men are precluded from employment because of some natural defect, and are kept on at a lower rate. The unions seek only to fix the minimum wage, below which is not a living wage, and the maximum is left to be fixed by the employer and workmen.

32233. But it does not seem to me that you make any provision in your trades unions for those men who are born so unhandy that they cannot compete with the union men?

If there is some natural and physical inability on the part of a workman, either physical inability to do his work as a man in health and full physical vigour would, or from old age, that man's case comes before the committee, and he is allowed to work for a sum such as may be agreed upon between him and his employer; we do not draw the line rigidly in a case like that.

32234. Lord *Clinton*.] Should you approve of an equivalent, or the revival of the old system of apprenticeship to a trade?

Yes; and I am certain that is the feeling of the whole of the trades in the country, that since the practical dying out of the apprenticeship system, except in certain trades, work is not as well done; nor is it in the public interest.

32235. Why did that system die out?

I think it came in with the contract system when I was serving my own apprenticeship; practically, the contracts were very few indeed. We used to work under the system known as time and material, when our employers lived over their shops and really took a personal part in the business that they lived by. If I had any work to do at a gentleman's house it was my duty to weigh out all colours and weigh it back, and to book that which had been absorbed, and then to charge the time, how long it took; and this was sent in to the customer by the employer ultimately, and the cost was charged upon the material and the time that the workmen took to complete the work. And then, subsequent to that, the contract system came up, and then the employers sought only to get the skilled labour ready to their hand, and the employment of it for purposes of gain; and they dropped the trouble of training a lad by apprenticeship.

32236. Do you think the instruction that they would get as apprentices would be better than the instruction they get in technical schools?

Infinitely; there is but one place where a boy can thoroughly learn his trade, the workshop; even his very mistakes would give him a knowledge and deftness of hand that a technical school will never by itself give; I mean even in a technical school that will give the practice as well as the theory.

32237. In your evidence you did not recommend the system of apprenticeship? I would, if it possibly could be restored.

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32238. You thought it could not?

I thought it could not because of the severity of competition, although the employers in many cases are willing to return to the system. It would be a bad thing for the employers as well as the public if the best skill were to die out for want of such training as used to be given under apprenticeship.

32239. *Chairman.*] You think it is impossible to revive apprenticeship?

I do not think it is if the employers would take the trouble; they will not be "bothered" with apprentices; that is the word we hear; and certainly boys are rather refractory, and lead to that feeling. It would be a good thing if employers could by public opinion be induced to take up the system again. Aided by the technical schools I think they might do a great deal.

32240. How do you account for the abandonment of apprenticeship and the substitution of this contract system in the way you have described, for instance, in your own trade?

Customers like to know what they are going to pay for the whole job, and have done with it. Probably there was some inattention on the part of employers, or jobs were kept longer about than they thought they ought to be kept, and they preferred to know what the job would cost and have done with it.

32241. *Lord Clinton.*] There were also great abuses connected with apprenticeship, were there not; boys went to learn a trade and did not learn it?

Yes; and sometimes boys in the first year or two were put to do work outside their trade. For instance, my master (that was the name in the indenture) used to send me to plant potatoes in his field, and to do various things of that kind in the first year or two.

32242. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] And also, I suppose, apprentices when they learnt their trade used to run away?

Yes, some boys had a great idea in my day that they could go to sea and be a midshipman or an admiral, or something of that kind. But in the long run the boys did study their trades, and there were very respectable well-to-do people who used to apprentice their boys to trades forty years ago.

32243. *Lord Monkswell.*] Is it the case that in all unions there is a system of unemployed pay?

Not in all; in some unions they have a national system of paying out-of-work benefit, called donations, and in others they have them locally applied to their branches, under the control of the branches. We tried it in our society some years ago, but it utterly failed, because when one branch had spent its funds for maintaining the unemployed, they had the power to come on their neighbours for the amount that their neighbours had; and we found that some were afraid of losing their fund, and they squandered it rather quickly in giving out-of-work benefit to men probably not entitled to it; and we stopped that, and threw it upon each branch to find its own funds in its own way; and in that way, where it has been put under local control, there the thing is successful.

32244. Then I understand that in no union is it a matter of absolute certainty that a man will get any unemployed pay; the unemployed pay may, I suppose, have all gone?

Where the unions give out-of-work pay it is certain. I do not know of a single union that has failed to pay all its obligations.

32245. But have all unions this rule?

Not all, but the majority of unions have a rule for providing out-of-work pay.

32246. Some have no rule of the kind at all?

Some have none.

32247. *Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*] Those, as a rule, are the more struggling trades?

Yes.

32248. *Chairman.*] To revert for a moment to the subject of inspection, it has been stated before us that the very people who suffer are those who are the greatest

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greatest obstacles in the way of inspection, and try to evade the law in every way; is that the case?

I think they do it under the pressure of the employer. Their struggle, of course, to live is at all times very severe, and if the employer says, "You will have to get out of the way; I shall have the inspector here, and if the work is stopped you will have the sack;" in that case it is a sort of terrorism over the workpeople.

32249. Do you think that the people generally understand that they could communicate privately, or, if they like, anonymously with the inspectors, and that the information would be attended to?

They do not seem to understand it generally. They have a sort of objection to that. I think they would rather rely upon the power of the inspector to come in and see the place, without having to wait for the warrant of a magistrate, and so on, if the employer chooses not to let him come in.

32250. Then about this power of combination of these trades, ultimately, I presume, the success of any organisation must depend upon the power of its members to do without work and wages for a certain time?

Ultimately, I think so.

32251. Then how would it be possible that these very poor persons, almost to be described as paupers, in these very weak branches of the tailoring and shoe-making trades, to make any effective combination when there is no possibility of providing for them in that way?

If they showed any desire to help themselves and form an organization, though they might lack funds, the more powerful and wealthy of the trades unions have always subscribed and helped these men. I might refer to the case of the seamen; when Mr. Plimsoll had his measure for the better regulation of Merchant Shipping before the House of Commons, the trades unions subscribed over 10,000 *l.* to help them to form a union and a fund for their own defence. Again, when the agricultural labourers' strike in the Eastern Counties took place some years ago, almost as much or more was subscribed in that instance to help them to form their union.

32252. Therefore you think that if these people made a strong effort to help themselves, they would get assistance?

I am certain they would.

32253. Is there anything else you would like to mention to the Committee?
I think not.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. RICHARD EDWARD SPRAGUE ORAM, is called in; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows:

32254. *Chairman.*] You are an Inspector under the Factory Act, are you not?

Superintending Inspector of Factories.

32255. What are your duties as superintending inspector of factories?

To visit the districts of the inspectors on my staff, and see that the Act is properly observed in the different districts; and all accident reports come to me from the certifying surgeons; and any that I consider require further investigation I return to the inspector to make further inquiries.

32256. What district is under you?

I have 12 inspectors on my staff; Mr. Lakeman and Mr. Bowling in London, with Mr. Snape as an assistant (by an assistant I mean that there are a certain number of junior inspectors who assist the inspector of the district until there is a district vacant to which he can be appointed); Mr. Cramp at Coventry; Mr. Blenkinsopp at Peterborough; Mr. Knyvett and Major Roe at Birmingham,

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with Mr. Tinker to assist; Mr. Hoare at Wolverhampton, with Mr. Shaw, of Stourbridge, to assist; Captain Bevan at Walsall; and Mr. Faussett at Norwich. I give their residence as the centre of their districts; of course they take the counties around.

32257. How long have you held this position?

About 29 years as inspector of factories, and since 1877 as superintending inspector.

32258. Where were you when you were working as inspector, in what district?

I had Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, part of Yorkshire; and afterwards I acted as an inspector in London.

32259. Then for the last 20 years you have been well acquainted with the localities from which most of the evidence before this Committee has been derived?

Yes, certainly, with the exception of Scotland; I had charge of Scotland for a short time during the illness of an inspector.

32260. And lately you have visited many of the large towns on behalf of the Committee?

That is so.

32261. Did you find any difficulty in getting information from the work-people?

I was assisted by the inspectors and the trade societies who managed to collect information before I visited the various towns, and owing to the inquiries of this Committee, and articles in the "Lancet," and a movement on the part of the trade societies, the question had come well before the societies and inspectors before my visit, and that had led to certain improvements, undoubtedly. I, of course, had their valuable assistance in ascertaining the best quarters to make inquiries. I had no difficulty in obtaining replies to my questions, but there was certainly a difficulty in getting at the lowest class of operatives, who are the greatest sufferers. For instance, I asked the Secretary of the Birmingham Tailors' Society if he could give me evidence that would be useful. They did, if you remember, give us returns. At the same time he told me that although there were out-workers, members of their society, he had the greatest difficulty in obtaining any evidence for me.

32262. What was the reason?

They were very reluctant to come forward.

32263. Afraid, you mean?

I am referring to the lowest class of workers. I also in Manchester asked the Secretary of the Shirt Makers' Society if she could get me any cases that would be valuable, and I found that she could not. She said that there was considerable difficulty in getting the unskilled workers to come forward and show the exact condition of affairs.

32264. They are afraid of the consequences to themselves by giving evidence, or of publicity?

I fancy so.

32265. Then would you consider generally that the evidence that has been given before the Committee gives a fair idea of the actual state of things?

I think a very fair idea, because you have had both sides of the question. I think that the movements on the part of the trade societies, even presuming that their statements are rather rose coloured (I do not say that they are, but it is thought so by some persons), have done a great deal of good and enabled us to get a great deal of information.

32266. From what you say, I gather that possibly the darkest view of the matter, the worst cases, have not come before the Committee?

I do not consider that what the trade societies have brought before us have been extreme, at least in the point of wages.

32267. Then,

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32267. Then, in your opinion, would the case that has been before the Committee, I mean the case for the sweated people, at any rate, not have been overstated?

I think not.

32268. Rather understated than overstated?

I think so, on account of the difficulty of getting the unskilled workers to come forward and give evidence.

32269. Did you find that sweating existed largely, or to any extent, in trades that have not been represented before this Committee?

No. I think the system of middlemen you would find in most trades. I felt it my duty not to extend the inquiry, for instance, from the nail and chain trade into the bucket trade, and the lock trade, and the rivet trade, and so on; because if I had extended the inquiry into each branch it would have been the same thing over and over again, and, of course, the inquiry would scarcely have been completed by Christmas.

32270. In your opinion, then, I gather that the case has been fairly put before the Committee; that any further evidence would merely have been in the nature of repetition, and would have thrown no further light upon the subject?

That is quite my opinion; if we had taken the different trades we should merely have had the same questions raised.

32271. I think you said that accidents were reported to you?

Yes.

32272. Have you any information on that point which you could give the Committee as to accidents in docks; would that come under your notice?

No, that would be outside our jurisdiction; it must be in a manufactory or workshop.

32273. When you were an inspector, what did you consider your powers to be of entering a factory or a workshop, domestic or otherwise?

When I was inspector I had the power of entering into various places. The 69th clause was not inserted till the Act of 1878, which prevented our visiting different places. That was a new clause. When I was an inspector it was not in existence, and I had no difficulty whatever. I will give you an instance in the City. I called, and they objected to my entrance; instead of forcing my way in, I said, "I will show you that I have the power, but I will write you a letter." So I went home and wrote them a letter, drawing attention to the section of the Act which empowered me to visit the place, and I said, "I will call again, on such a day, when I am quite sure you will not compel me to issue a summons for obstruction." I went, and the difficulty was got over at once. At that time I used to visit, at half-past 10 and 11 o'clock at night, the lower parts of the East of London; Petticoat-lane, and so on, and I had not the slightest difficulty in visiting what would be considered, under the new clause, the dwelling-houses of the lower classes where there were workrooms, except on one or two occasions. On one occasion, I visited one of the tailors at the East End, and his wife said, "You shall not go up." I had visited the place before, and knew where the workshop was, and hearing the machines I knew, of course, that they were working late in the evening; I said, and her husband was standing by, "Do not think that I am going to act offensively and knock you down for the purpose of getting into your room; I shall advance two steps, and then if you will not allow me to pass, of course, I shall have to summon you for obstruction." The husband interfered at once and said, "Let Mr. Oram pass;" she then let me pass. That shows you how these difficulties were got over.

32274. Under what section of the Act did you visit these places?

It was under the usual powers of an inspector, because the new clause was inserted in 1878. The clause is exactly the same now as it was then.

32275. Before that clause was inserted, did you consider you had power to go in where you liked?

Anywhere we pleased where there was a workshop.

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32276. What did you consider a workshop?
Where anything is made or repaired for sale.

32277. Where is that definition?

This is the part of the Act I refer to, Sub-section (2) of Section 93: "Also any premises, room, or place, not being a factory within the meaning of this Act, in which premises, room, or place, or within the close or curtilage or precincts of which premises, any manual labour is exercised by way of trade, or for purposes of gain in or incidental to the following purposes, or any of them; that is to say (a) in or incidental to the making of any article or of part of any article, or (b) in or incidental to the altering, repairing, ornamenting, or finishing of any article; or (c) in or incidental to the adapting for sale of any article; and to which or over which premises, room, or place, the employer of the persons working therein has the right of access or control." These places that I mentioned were places not only where the family was employed, but others as well as the family.

32278. But could you have gone into a place where only members of the family were employed, do you think?

I think so.

32279. Then the Act was amended?

Clause 69 of the Act of 1878 is in no previous Act. The local authorities had power to enter the different places previously, when the workshops were under their jurisdiction.

32280. Your powers, then, as an inspector have been limited by the 69th Clause?

By the 69th Clause: that has been the greatest obstacle in inspection.

32281. Lord *Clinton*.] Will you read the clause?

"Restriction on entry of inspector into dwellings." "An inspector before entering in pursuance of the powers conferred by this Act, without the consent of the occupier, any room or place actually used as a dwelling as well as for a factory or workshop, shall, on an affidavit or statutory declaration of facts and reasons, obtain written authority so to do from a Secretary of State, or such warrant as is hereinafter mentioned from a justice of the peace. The affidavit or statutory declaration above mentioned may be inspected or produced in evidence in all respects the same as an information on oath before a justice." But during the daytime we have no practical difficulty, because I have never known an instance in which admission has been refused. I have called in the course of my visits to dwelling-houses, and stated who I was, and there is never any difficulty during the daytime; but no inspector would be so indiscreet, if this section were repealed, as to visit a place at night before he had been to it in the day and seen where the workroom was. It must be left to a great extent to discretion of the inspector.

32282. *Chairman*.] I want to know how far you think that restriction has injuriously affected the efficiency of the inspection?

I consider that it has done so to a very injurious extent. The inspectors feel great difficulty and delicacy in the matter; they call and are admitted.

32283. What is the definition of a factory?

There are definitions of textile factories and factories which are specially defined to be non-textile factories, but with the exception of the textile factories under the old Act, cotton, silk, and so on, the definition of a non-textile factory, which would be the principal question before us, is that contained in Section 93. There were a great many places that were factories before the Act of 1878. The Act of 1878 made all places factories where goods were made by "steam, water, or other mechanical power." But in addition to that there were certain other places specifically mentioned, which I will read: "Any works, warehouses, furnaces, mills, foundries, or places named in Part I. of the Fourth Schedule to this Act;" and those named in the Fourth Schedule are: "Print works, bleaching and dyeing works, earthenware works, lucifer match works, percussion-cap works, cartridge works, paper-

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paper-staining works, fustian-cutting works, blast furnaces, copper mills, iron mills, foundries, metal and india-rubber works, paper mills, glass works, tobacco factories, letter-press printing works, book binding works, flax scutch mills." Then Section 93 goes on to say: "Also any premises or places named in Part II. of the said Schedule wherein or within the close, or curtilage, or precincts of which steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there." That would refer to these works.

32284. I thought you said first that a factory was defined as a place where machinery, or steam, or water power was used, with certain exceptions which you were going to read out?

No, with the additions.

32285. Those are the additions you have given?

Yes: and the places that I am now going to mention, presuming that there is no steam power will be workshops; if there is steam power they are factories: hat works, rope works (for instance, as to the rope works, if there is no steam power it is a workshop, if there is steam power it is a factory). What I read in Part I. of the Fourth Schedule, all those places are factories whether there is steam power or not. That is the difference between Part I. and Part II.

32286. What you are now reading out is a factory or a workshop; in one case, where there is machinery, it is a factory; in the other case, where there is not machinery, is a workshop?

If it has steam power, or mechanical power, or gas power, or anything of that sort, it is a factory; and, if not, it is a workshop.

32287. You were going to read from Part II. of the Schedule?

Bakehouses, lace warehouses, ship-building yards, quarries, and pit banks. Then, in addition, Section 93 contains this: "Also any premises wherein or within the close, or curtilage, or precincts of which any manual labour is exercised by way of trade, or for purposes of gain in or incidental to the following purposes, or any of them; that is to say, (a) in or incidental to the making of any article, or part of any article; or (b) in or incidental to the altering, repairing, ornamenting, or finishing of any article; or (c) in or incidental to the adapting for sale of any article; and wherein or within the close, or curtilage, or precincts of which steam, water, or other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there."

32288. That is not defining a factory, is it?

Yes; this is the general clause including everything else that has not been included before where steam power is used. So that there are really three descriptions there; first, certain defined works are factories whether there is any power or not; secondly, certain places are factories if there is power, workshops if there is no power; thirdly, all places where there is steam, water, or other mechanical power are factories.

32289. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] And places for the repairing and making of articles?

Making or repairing any articles for sale.

32290. Or ornamenting?

Yes, ornamenting or finishing.

32291. And if they had no power those places would be workshops?

Except those that are specially mentioned in the Fourth Schedule of the Act.

32292. *Chairman*.] Then, pursuing that a little further, is there any definition of what is a domestic workshop?

Certainly, in the 16th section: "Where persons are employed at home, that is, to say, in a private house, room, or place which, though used as a dwelling, is, by reason of the work carried on there, a factory or workshop within the meaning of this Act, and in which neither steam, water, nor other mechanical power is used in aid of the manufacturing process carried on there, and in which the only persons employed are members of the same family dwelling there, the foregoing regulations of this Act with respect to the employment of

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children, young persons, and women shall not apply to such factory or workshop, and in lieu thereof the following regulations shall be observed therein."

32293. That, you say, is the definition of a domestic workshop?
Yes.

32294. That is to say, that a domestic workshop means a workshop in which members of the same family are employed?
Yes.

32295. But that is not the sense in which the term has been frequently used before this Committee?

That is the only way in which it can be rightly used. A domestic workshop popularly would be a place where the family are employed, though it may be in a workshop separate and distinct from the house. That has caused the mistake. In the nail and chain trade, for instance, the workshops are not domestic workshops because they are separate from the dwelling.

32296. Although only members of the family may be there?
Yes.

32297. What do you call them?

I call them workshops under the Act. If those women had been employed in the dwelling-house they would not be under the Act; but inasmuch as the workshop is separate and distinct from the dwelling, it is an ordinary workshop under the provisions of the Act.

32298. Then there is no difference between what has been called before the Committee a domestic workshop and a family workshop?

None whatever. At least there is no such thing as a family workshop in the Act; it would be only popularly called a family workshop; it would be an ordinary workshop, although only the family were employed there.

32299. You think the confusion has arisen from the fact that in some cases the shop is a part of the dwelling-house, and members of the same family work in it; but in other cases, though members of the same family were working in it, it would be separate from the dwelling, and therefore would not be a domestic workshop?

That has caused the confusion. Then in the regulations bearing on domestic workshops you will observe that women can work as long as they please; the regulations are only applicable to children and young persons.

32300. Therefore, if the shop is part of the dwelling-house, the women can work any hours they please; if it is separated from the dwelling-house by a space, however small, they cannot?

It becomes then an ordinary workshop.

32301. Lord *Clinton*.] That 16th section applies only to children and young persons?

Only to children and young persons.

32302. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] If you have a mechanical appliance, machinery for manufacture, in a dwelling-house where only the family are employed, is that subject to inspection?

Yes.

32303. On account of the machinery, even though it is in a house; for instance, where they are working with a gas engine in a house?

Yes.

32304. And even if they were only the members of the family, still it would be subject to inspection?

Yes, certainly; a great many of the ribbon factories in Coventry are in that position.

32305. Machinery which is not used for the purpose of manufacture is not subject to any inspection?

No.

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32306. Lord *Monkswell*.] I suppose you can go into these domestic workshops to see that children and young persons are not employed over hours ; you have powers of entry ?

No ; that is the difficulty indeed which Clause 69 presents. I find that there is every facility offered us in the day-time, and the fact is, they would not oppose our entry because they do not know the law ; but we have really no legal power if they object.

32307. *Chairman*.] The law says that certain things shall not be done, but nobody has any power to see that they are not done ?

That is it.

32308. You have to get a warrant ?

Practically that is it ; because if you are passing a place and hear the machines going, and you have to postpone your visit till the next day for the purpose of getting a warrant, when you get it you may not find the thing occurring.

32309. Lord *Archbishop of Canterbury*.] There is no power at all to check night-work in domestic workshops ; that is the upshot of it ?

None ; that is the effect.

32310. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] In factories the actual state of the machinery, whether it is safe or dangerous, comes directly under the inspector ?

That is very important ; the fencing of machinery is one of the principal things we have to attend to.

32311. But if the machinery is not in a factory, it is subject to no inspection ; in a dock, for instance ?

It must be for some manufacturing purpose.

32312. But if it does not happen to be for manufacturing purposes, but only for the handling of goods, and things of that kind, it is subject to no inspection whatever ?

To no inspection whatever.

32313. *Chairman*.] Have you had many complaints made to you during your experience ; complaints from workpeople, I mean ?

We receive a great many anonymous complaints, and if it was more generally known that any complaint, anonymous or otherwise, that is sent to the inspector or to the Home Office, is filed and duly reported upon, I think that we should have a greater number of complaints forwarded, and that would lead to the Act being more fully observed. For instance, sometimes when I have been in the City, they have said, "Mr. Oram, they are working, we know, in the same business as ourselves very late of an evening ;" I said, "It is your fault, not the inspector's ; if you sent to the Home Office a memorandum merely giving the name, the complaint would be investigated, though you did not tell us from whence the information came." And when deputations have waited upon the Home Secretary, he has intimated to the trade societies that they could render us valuable assistance by giving us information of complaints that may come before them.

32314. Have you had many prosecutions under the Act in your experience ?

Yes.

32315. And generally have they been successful ?

Always ; I do not recollect a failure in a single case ; and in connection with those prosecutions I should say that we have the power of holding, scarcely a court of inquiry, but at all events holding an inquiry, which is a very important power under the Act. In visiting Manchester a large firm said to me, "How is it, Mr. Oram, that women can work all night at such-and-such a firm, and we have to close in the evening?" I went the following Friday evening, and found that they were not working, but those in the court told me that I should have come the previous Friday, when they were working all night. I called the next day at the factory and informed the manager that I should hold an inquiry ;

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he requested to know what power I had ; I explained to him ; he objected. " Now," I said, " I shall first of all take your evidence, and if you object to give me evidence, before proceeding against the firm, I shall be compelled to take proceedings against you ; but I will permit you to confer with the firm, so as to come to some sort of decision." Then I said, " You can go round with me, on condition that you do not interfere with the workpeople ;" so on going round I took their evidence, and one woman convicted the rest ; she said, " I left here at 12 o'clock because I have two or three children, and I would not stay any longer." I said, " Who was here when you left ? " " So-and-so and so-and-so." I took their evidence, and on the depositions proceedings were taken before the magistrates, and secured a conviction.

32316. Just explain to the Committee what powers you have for holding such an enquiry ?

It is in Section 68, Sub-section (6) : " To examine, either alone or in the presence of any other person, as he thinks fit, with respect to matters under this Act, every person whom he finds in a factory or workshop, or such a school as aforesaid, or whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be or to have been, within the preceding two months, employed in a factory or workshop, and to require such person to be so examined, and to sign a declaration of the truth of the matters respecting which he is so examined."

32317. And you have had a great many convictions, have you, in your experience ?

A great many ; only two of that description.

32318. Do you find generally that the full amount of the fine or penalty is inflicted ?

No. That is a very important point. I find that in some cases they may work till half-past 10, 11, or 12 o'clock at night, and only a fine of 6*d.* is inflicted. I mentioned that to the chamber of commerce ; it is not necessary to mention the name of the town, but at a meeting of the chamber of commerce I brought the matter before them, and they said, " Mr. Oram, you question the decision of the magistrates." I said, " I give no opinion on the propriety of the thing, but only draw attention to a fact known all over the town ;" I think it is very essential that the minimum penalty to be inflicted should be inserted in the Act.

32319. You think borough magistrates have a tendency to be lenient ?

Manufacturers are very lenient to their fellow manufacturers in certain districts, and where it is known throughout the town that the penalty will be 6*d.*, of course they do not hesitate to work late ; and they give great difficulty in that way.

32320. Have you any opinion as to the compulsory registration of all places where work is carried on ?

I think that would be important, and I think that factories and workshops, to prevent confusion, should be included ; that the registration should be by the local authority, in the same manner as the registration of places containing store licenses under the Explosive Substances Act, 1875, Sections 28 and 49. I will read the sections. Section 28 of that Act is : " The local authority shall cause registers of all store licenses granted by, and of all premises registered with, them under this Act to be kept in such form and with such particulars as they may direct. The local authority shall, when so required by the Secretary of State, send to him, within the time fixed by such requisition, a copy of such register or any part thereof, and in default the clerk of such authority, and also the authority if they are in fault, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 1*l.* for every day during which such default continues." And under Section 49, showing that the local authorities have at present to register certain places, this is provided : " Any person may apply for a small firework factory license to the local authority, at the time and place appointed by such authority, stating his name, address, and calling, and the proposed site and construction of the factory, and the amount and description of explosive he proposes to have therein,"

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therein," and so on. "On payment of such fee, not exceeding 5 s., as may be fixed by that authority, the license applied for" shall be granted by the local authority. Printed copies of forms to be filled up by the occupier would be forwarded to the local authority by the Home Office, and given to occupiers on application. I will give you a copy of the form that ought now to be filled up by owners of factories.

32321. You say "that ought now;" do you mean that it is not?
It is not done. (*A copy of the form is produced.*)

32322. Is there any penalty for not doing it?

There is a penalty, but the information must be laid within two months of the commission of the offence. The result is this: that we have no knowledge of the fact probably till four or five months after the factory is opened. So that practically the clause has been a dead letter.

32323. Then do you suggest that the onus of registration should be placed upon the occupier of the house?

The occupier of the workshop.

32324. Domestic or otherwise?

Domestic or otherwise. Then, after the form that I have given you is entered by the local authorities in their registers, the register number could be inserted, and the form sent to the Factory Inspectors Department, Home Office. The local authorities register should be open to inspection by the public on payment of a small fee, as in the case of the register of store licenses, by Section 28 of the Explosive Substances Act of 1875, which I have just read. There, if any one wishes to examine a register, on payment of a small fee they can see the register.

32325. So that you mean that any workman thinking that his place of work is not registered could go and see for himself whether it were or not?

Yes. The registration fee should be 1 s., for which the occupier should receive an abstract of the Act with the registered number, and the maximum number of persons to be employed in the workroom according to the measurement given by the occupier, inserted. The measurement would be given in the notice paper; then the number of persons to be employed could be inserted on the abstract, which would somewhat resemble the ticketed houses in Glasgow. Of course the power of entry would be a separate and distinct question, only that would prevent overcrowding. The registration fee of 1 s., would repay the local authorities for the trouble.

32326. And that, you think, should be applied to all places where work is carried on?

All places where work is carried on, except by a man and his wife; certainly I should think it would include all out-workers.

32327. What do you mean by out-workers?

That was the next point I was coming to. Permit me to bring that in in due course.

32328. I only want to ascertain to whom you would apply this compulsory registration?

To every place except where a man or a man and his wife worked.

32329. Except where a man works alone, or with his wife, or where the wife works alone?

Yes.

32330. *Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*] Without children?
Without children.

32331. *Chairman.*] Or relatives?

If there were relatives I should have it registered.

32332. You would not allow a man and his wife, and his mother-in-law, for instance, to be exempt?

No, she would be "a female." Then I should propose, as the penalty for

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non-registration within three months from the passing of the Act, and afterwards within one month of occupation, that there should be a minimum penalty of 10*s.*, and a maximum of 5*l.* This is the point in regard to the out-workers as to which you asked me what I meant by an out-worker. In addition to the registration, all employers who have out-workers should be required to send the names and addresses of such out-workers to the Factory Department, Home Office, where the registrar would see whether the name was on the list received from the local authority.

32333. As a check?

As a check. The employers always keep a list of the names and addresses of all out-workers for their own information, so that there would be no difficulty in their sending that list to the Home Office.

32334. *Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*] Are there not very constant changes, even from week to week;

They would not be bound to send them in a second time.

32335. Then would not their first list become useless very soon?

No, only on the change of address.

32336. *Chairman.*] How often would you have the list sent in?

They would have a certain list, and they would only send in additions. If there was an alteration in the address they would know the alteration and alter it in their private book, and then give us a copy of it.

32337. Would you require them to furnish the Home Office with every alteration as it occurred?

Yes.

32338. They might be changing every week or fortnight, might they not?

I do not think the employers would find any practical difficulty. They have to keep the names and addresses for their own purposes. Then a result of this registration by local authorities would be, that it would lead to greater co-operation between the local authorities and the inspectors of factories.

32339. Do you think that the inspection is sufficient as regards numbers?

Certainly not; that has been universally admitted by Home Secretaries in reply to deputations from trade societies. The difficulty has always been one of expense. Different Home Secretaries have said, "We admit that there should be an addition to the staff, but we have some little difficulty in getting the Treasury to increase the staff of the department."

32340. What is your opinion about assistants, men drawn from the working classes, not drawing any very high salaries, men possessed of technical knowledge; would that be of any advantage or not?

I think there should be no addition to the present staff of inspectors of factories, but that the inspectors of factories as at present constituted should occupy the position of medical officers of health, having assistants who would be in the position of the inspector of nuisances, at a small salary, to assist them in the subordinate work in the different districts.

32341. But do you think that they should be men possessed of technical knowledge of the trade?

They should be men of good common sense; that is all that is necessary. You could not have tailors and carpenters and representatives of all the various trades in a district; you would have to have an army of inspectors in every district if you had men with practical knowledge. What you want is a man of good common sense, who would only do such duties as he was directed to do by the inspector, and would report to the inspector, and would have nothing to do with factories, or with such things as the fencing of machinery and the inquiring into accidents, which would still be in the hands of the inspector; but there are a great many duties, such as inquiry into the non-attendance of children at school, which occupy the time and attention of the inspector now, but which it would not be necessary for him to attend to if he had such assistance as I have been speaking of.

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32342. Lord *Clinton*.] Would it not be necessary for the assistant to have the same power of entry that the inspector has, in order to find out whether the law was being complied with?

He could have it in workshops. I should confine the assistants purely to the inspection of workshops, not factories.

32343. *Chairman*.] What have you to say as to the sanitary condition generally of the places you have seen?

I am bound to say that I believe the sanitary condition was very much worse six months before I went; but in the different towns they had increased the number of sanitary inspectors, and had been busily engaged visiting, so that when I went round things were in a very much better position than they were a few months before.

32344. Would you say that they are satisfactory now, or that they are still unsatisfactory?

There was nothing to complain of in the places that I visited. Perhaps the lime-washing ought to be more frequently attended to; and that is an important point. I think that with respect to lime-washing there should be a register kept in every workshop in the same way as in the factories, showing when the place was last lime-washed; because the inspector has very great difficulty in proving that the place was not lime-washed within 14 months; and if they were bound to keep a record of when the place was last lime-washed, that would be proof before the magistrates that a certain time had elapsed since the last lime-wash.

32345. Have you any opinion as to the question of limiting the hours of male labour; whether you think it is advisable or necessary, I mean, in view of the evidence before the Committee of the exceedingly long hours worked in some trades?

You see there never has been any interference with adult male labour, and it would be a new question.

32346. In your opinion, are the provisions of the Act which apply to women and their hours of work evaded?

I should think so, because there is no possibility of knowing how many hours they have worked. I mean, that if they are permitted to work between six in the morning and nine at night, 10½ hours, nobody can prove that they have worked more than that.

32347. What alteration would you suggest?

I should propose the repeal of that clause, Sub-section 2 of Section 15: "In a workshop which is conducted on the system of not employing therein either children or young persons, (a) The period of employment for a woman shall, except on Saturday, begin at six o'clock in the morning and end at nine o'clock in the evening, and shall on Saturday begin at six o'clock in the morning and end at four o'clock in the afternoon"——

32348. You would repeal that?

I should repeal that.

32349. What would you substitute for it?

That is an exception. "The following regulations shall be observed." They would come then under the general regulations, the workshop regulations, if that was repealed.

32350. Just clear that up. I want to know, if that is repealed, what would the position of the women be?

If that was repealed it would come under the general definition of workshop; this is the only clause that exempts them.

32351. What time would they begin; what would their hours of work be?

Either between six and six, or seven and seven, or the Home Secretary has permission to let them work between eight and eight.

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32352. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] What section is that?

That would be under the provision as to the hours of work in workshops.

32353. *Chairman.*] How many hours are they allowed to work now?

Ten and a-half; between six and six, or seven and seven, with an hour and a-half for meals.

32354. And that, you think, would be satisfactory?

I think so.

32355. Then I see that women are to be allowed off for meals and absence from work not less than four hours and a-half a day, except on Saturday?

You see that amounts to the same number of hours' work, if it could be carried out, as in ordinary workshops, where they work between six and six, and have one hour and a-half for meals.

32356. Do you mean that they do not get that four-and-a-half hours for meals and absence from work?

It is impossible to discover whether they do get it.

32357. You say that the proper time for meal hours is not afforded to them; that they do not get it?

No; it is impossible to find out.

32358. Then as to overtime; do you think that the legal overtime is frequently exceeded?

I think it is very easy to work more than the 48 days under the existing system of Book No. 40, which, doubtless, you have seen, and I should propose that in every factory or workshop where they are permitted to work overtime there should be a notice placed in the workshop on which they should be bound to enter the overtime, so that the workpeople could see; and the inspector, if he visited the workshop, could likewise see, the days on which they had worked overtime, and if they were working overtime the evening of the visit; that is, that presuming that their hours of work are seven to seven, or eight to eight, before they commenced overtime they should be bound to make an entry on the notice; and if they had not done so, then when the inspector visited the place he should be permitted to prosecute for illegal employment.

32359. Have you any other sections or sub-sections of the Act which you would like to deal with?

Yes; undoubtedly Section 61 should be repealed.

32360. The whole section?

The whole section.

32361. That is the "exception of domestic factories and workshops and certain other workshops from certain provisions of the Act;" that is as regards cleanliness?

Cleanliness and the affixing of notices; the allowance of any holidays to a child, young person, or woman; or to the sending notice of accidents. That is applicable to domestic workshops and places where only women are employed.

32362. You would repeal that?

Some modified clause would have to be inserted bearing on domestic workshops, perhaps; but certainly it would have to be repealed as far as places where only women are employed are concerned.

32363. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] And places where men only are employed are exempted?

That would be another clause. I will speak of that. Sub-section (a) refers to domestic workshops, and Sub-section (b) refers to places where only women are employed.

32364. *Chairman.*] Have you any other section you would like to refer to? Yes, the section which exempts men.

32365. Which is that?

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[Continued.]

In the latter clause of the 93rd section, nearly at the end of the section: "This Act shall not apply to such workshops, other than bakehouses, as are conducted on the system of not employing any child, young person, or woman therein." So that as far as the sanitary clauses are concerned I think that places where only men are employed should be included. At present that clause exempts them entirely.

32366. That exempts places where men only are employed if they are not factories?

If they are not factories.

32367. Or workshops?

No; all workshops where only men are employed are exempt by that clause.

32368. It exempts all places where men only are employed, except factories? This clause has only reference to workshops. Factories where men are employed are at present under the Act, but workshops where men are employed are exempt by this clause which I have just read.

32369. Then what is the meaning of the next words: "Save as aforesaid applies to all factories and workshops"?

"Save as aforesaid applies to all factories and workshops as before defined, inclusive of factories and workshops belonging to the Crown." That was inserted specially to bring in the Crown factories.

32370. Is there anything else in the Act you would like to call the attention of the Committee to?

I think that in regard to privies and earth closets, Section 38 of the Public Health Act, with such modification as may be deemed desirable, should be embodied in the Factory Act, as recommended by the Royal Commission of 1876. The question of closet accommodation has been mentioned, I observed, by several witnesses.

32371. But I understood you to say that in your opinion the sanitary condition of these places was now generally satisfactory?

I did not mean with regard to the number of closets. I have not looked into that question as I looked round; I was merely taking the general evidence.

32372. You mean that the sanitary condition of the localities was satisfactory?

I was speaking of the sanitary condition of the workshop itself; but I did not look into the question of the number of closets and so on, because I thought that was rather beyond the inquiry. Then a very important point would be, I think, that of lime-washing. This would very much facilitate the carrying out of the Act, that the lime-washing of workshops and factories under 20 *l.* rental should be done by the owner, and not the occupier, who in many cases is very poor; and that the owner shall be bound to keep the place in tenantable repair. That is similar to the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1885, Section 12. Perhaps you would permit me to read that section.

32373. Yes?

"In any contract made after the passing of this Act for letting for habitation by persons of the working classes a house or part of a house, there shall be implied a condition that the house is at the commencement of the holding in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. In this section the expression, 'letting for habitation by persons of the working classes,' means the letting for habitation of a house or part of a house at a rent not exceeding in England the sum named as the limit for the composition of rates by Section 3 of the Poor Rate Assessment or Collection Act, 1869, and in Scotland or Ireland 4 *l.*" In the metropolis it is a rent not exceeding 20 *l.*

32374. Is there any other point in regard to the Act which you desire to bring before us?

I think it very important that the minimum number of cubic feet to constitute overcrowding should be inserted in the Act, because there would be very

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great difference of opinion. You may go before one bench of magistrates, and they consider that you should have 400 cubic feet, and you may go before another bench of magistrates, and they would be perfectly satisfied if you had only 160 or 170 cubic feet; and I think that if 250 cubic feet were inserted in Section 3, with power of increase if the circumstances rendered it necessary, subject to an appeal to a magistrate, that would meet the case.

32375. Is there any other suggestion that you wish to make of a similar nature on the legal aspect of the case?

Yes; a suggestion with reference to medical officers of health. When I saw one of the metropolitan medical officers of health when I was inspector of factories, and asked him to co-operate with me in carrying out the Workshop Act, he said, "Do you know what the result would be if I was to meet your wishes?" He said, "My removal." There is no doubt about it; and under Section 132 of the Metropolis Local Management Act, the medical officers of health may be removed "at the pleasure of such vestry or board;" but not so under the Public Health Act. The power of appointment might remain with the local authority, but the power of removal should be with the Local Government Board or with the Home Secretary. Then that would place the medical officer of health in an independent position; and it would be a very great question whether the sanitary inspectors should not be in a somewhat more independent position than at present, because the vestries are often composed of the owners of property, and it places them in an invidious position.

32376. We have had a great deal of evidence on that point; I think it is sufficient to have your opinion about it; have you any other suggestion you would like to make before their Lordships ask you any questions?

I would suggest in regard to closing cellar workshops, whether sections 72, 73, and 75 of the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to cellar dwellings, might not be extended to cellar workshops. Section 72 of the Public Health Act is: "It shall not be lawful to let or occupy or suffer to be occupied separately as a dwelling, any cellar whatsoever, unless the following requisitions are complied with," and then it states all the conditions under which that cellar shall be occupied.

32377. And you think that that ought to be applied to a cellar used as a shop?

With certain modifications, if it be deemed desirable that those regulations should be applicable to cellar workshops. Then Section 16 of the Sanitary Act, 1866, might be extended to Her Majesty's inspectors of factories. I will read it. This is to meet the difficulty of the local authorities not attending to a notice that may be sent by the inspectors of factories, which very often is a nullity: "In any place within the jurisdiction of a nuisance authority the chief officer of police within that place, by and under the directions of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, on its being proved to his satisfaction that the nuisance authority has made default in doing its duty, may institute any proceedings which the nuisance authority of such place might institute with respect to the removal of nuisances; provided always, that no officer of police shall be at liberty to enter any house, or part of a house used as the dwelling of any person without such person's consent, or without the warrant of a justice of the peace, for the purpose of carrying into effect this Act." I would suggest, instead of the inspector of factories doing it, that this Clause 16 might be embodied in the Factory Act, and that the chief officer of police should have the power under the Factory Act that he has under the Sanitary Act.

32378. You do not propose to extend that power to the inspectors?

I think that as the inspectors have so much to attend to, it would be better perhaps, inasmuch as the chief officer of police has to carry it out under the Sanitary Act, that he should be empowered to do the same on notice from the factory inspector.

32379. That would devolve some of the duties of the inspector on the police?

No; it would be really for the police to carry out what is the duty of the sanitary

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sanitary authority. The chief officer of the police has to take proceedings under the directions of the Home Secretary.

32380. Have you any other suggestion?

It is very important that the meal hours should be hung up in every workshop. At present there are certain exemptions, for instance in the manufacture of wearing apparel. It is quite necessary for them to state distinctly the meal hours. If the meal hours are hung up in all except domestic workshops and no exception allowed (I am now referring to workshops and not factories; I am confining my remarks wholly to workshops), then, of course, if they evaded the law, it would be known at once; but if you allow them to take their meals at any time they please, you cannot very well prosecute for not giving a proper time for meals; it is so difficult of proof.

32381. Have you any other suggestion to make?

There is what I consider a very important recommendation made by the Royal Commission of 1866, which has not been acted on; they recommended that, with a view to publicity, an outline of the Act, and the names of the inspectors, should be hung up at every police station throughout the kingdom and exhibited in every post office.

32382. You think that that would be a good thing?

I think it would be very important; they would know then with whom to communicate, whom to send complaints to; more than that, presuming that registration was carried out, on that notice it would state where the workshop would be registered.

32383. Can you furnish us with the instructions given to the factory inspectors from the Home Office?

Yes (*a copy of the same is handed in, see Appendix*).

32384. Lord Clinton.] Are we to understand that the factory inspectors have no control over the sanitary arrangements of workshops in which men only are employed?

None whatever.

32385. Is that the only case where they have no authority over sanitary arrangements?

Neither have they where women only are employed.

32386. And you think that in that direction the Act should be improved?

Yes.

32387. What is the practice of the factory inspectors; they often see cases where sanitary arrangements are very defective; what do they do in that case; do they not call the attention of the other authorities to the matter?

Not with respect to lime-washing, which is the principal thing.

32388. I mean as to the privy accommodation?

No; they have nothing whatever to do with the place.

32389. But in cases where you find defective sanitary arrangements in workshops, you have power, have you not, to act yourself directly?

Only to a certain extent. Section 4 of the Act says: "Where it appears to an inspector under this Act that any act, neglect, or default in relation to any drain, water closet, earth closet, privy, ash-pit, water supply, nuisance, or other matter in a factory or workshop, is punishable or remediable under the law relating to public health, but not under this Act, that inspector shall give notice in writing of such act, neglect, or default to the sanitary authority," not to act himself. Then he gives notice to the sanitary authority, and if they do nothing the factory inspector has nothing further to do in the matter.

32390. Nothing need be done?

Nothing need be done.

32391. Would you desire that the factory inspectors should have greater powers in that direction?

I think not; I think that it would be increasing the duties of the factory inspectors

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inspectors too much ; I think they have enough to attend to at present. But I suggest that the chief of the police should have the duty, in the same way as under the other Act that I referred to just now, Section 16 of the Sanitary Act of 1866. I suggest that that should be inserted in the Factory Act ; and that in case of notice going from the inspector of factories, and not being attended to, then the Home Secretary should have power to direct the chief of the police to see that that is carried out.

32392. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] I do not think I quite understood the object with which you wished the addresses of out-workers registered ; did I not understand you to say that, besides the registering of the workshops, you would like to have the addresses of the out-workers in the workshops also registered ?

Merely that every employer who employed out-workers, as he always keeps an account of the names and addresses of those in his employment, should send a copy of that to the Home Office.

32393. That would be a great deal of trouble to the employer, and I do not quite see what advantage it would be to the factory inspector ?

I do not think the firms have any objection, and I have seen it recommended in the evidence on two or three occasions ; I thought it a very good thing, a double check.

32394. I can understand that it would be a great advantage to the factory inspector to know where the workshops were, and to know the fact that they did employ outside labour, and that if they are registered as not employing outside labour, and then did, they would have to send notice ; I can understand that ; but I cannot understand that it matters particularly to the factory inspector where the out-workers live ?

It would be a check, presuming that they had not had the place registered. If the employer had a name on the list that was not on the list sent to the local authority, we should prosecute the out-worker for not having had his place registered. Supposing a firm had 20 out-workers, and that list was sent to the Home Office, the local authorities having sent up the list of places on their register, and we found perhaps 10 of those places not on the register, we should at once take proceedings against the out-worker for not having his place duly registered, and an abstract hung up. That would facilitate the administration of the Act.

32395. *Chairman.*] You attributed some of the difficulties of the inspectors to the fact of the reluctance of the people to make complaints, and I think you thought that was caused by fear ?

I think by ignorance more than fear.

32396. I want to ask you whether you think it arises from the fact that the people do not want to be interfered with ; that they do not object to working longer time than they are allowed by law to work, but that they prefer it ?

I am very much afraid that I must admit that that is the case ; for there is less interest taken in the enforcement of the Act amongst those who are benefited by the Act than one would have expected.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MR. ALEXANDER REDGRAVE, C.B., is called in ; and, having been sworn, is Examined, as follows :

32397. *Chairman.*] You are the Chief Inspector under the Factory Act, are you not ?

Yes.

32398. How long have you held that position ?

I have been chief inspector for 11 years ; before that I was one of the four inspectors for 25 years ; before that I was several years a sub-inspector ; they are now called inspectors ; and before that I was some years in the Home Office.

32399. Have

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[Continued.]

32399. Have you heard Mr. Oram's evidence?

I have heard Mr. Oram's evidence to day.

32400. Mr. Oram made several suggestions as to amendments of the various provisions of the existing Act; do you generally concur in what he said?

I concur with him generally, but not in detail, in all.

32401. Which would be most convenient to you, to make your own suggestions as to any amendments or alterations in the Act, or to explain in what respects you differ from Mr. Oram?

They both will be very brief. Perhaps I may just go through some of the suggestions which I would make; and I would state preliminarily that I confine myself to suggestions with respect to the matters that came before the Committee as relating to sweating and sweaters' houses, and so on, and not to the general question of making alterations which I may deem advisable in the Act itself. I can clear away, perhaps, one or two points in that respect. One great defect in the Factory Act has been in regard to the fixing of minimum penalties. That does not affect the question of sweaters only, but it affects the whole question of factory administration. I am of course quite aware that under the Summary Jurisdiction Act there is no minimum penalty fixed for any offence; and though there was a minimum penalty under the original Factory Act, yet in 1878 when the Factory Acts were consolidated, it was found better to put them under the general law of the country, and leave the question of penalty entirely for the consideration of the magistrates.

32402. You suggest that there should be a minimum?

I think that there should be a minimum, for the reason Mr. Oram stated, that in many cases where men have been fraudulently employing women late at night the magistrate has imposed 6*d.* fine and so on for each person. Then one or two of the principal questions which have arisen have been with respect to domestic workshops, and the workshops where women only are employed. With respect to domestic workshops, I am not of opinion that we should alter the existing law. The existing law provides for the inspection of domestic workshops as to hours of work of young persons and children; the females of the family who reside there are not interfered with. We have full power of inspecting a domestic workshop in regard to the hours of work, and I am not aware—it has not come before me—that there has been any failure in that respect of domestic workshops which come under Section 16, that is, of places where the family who reside in the house work there too. Take, for instance, the dressmakers in London, who all occupy dwelling-houses; they all have a workroom; they do not carry on their trade in a dwelling-room but a workroom; and, therefore, there is really no difficulty in visiting private houses. There is a general idea that one of the sections prohibits the inspectors from entering a domestic workshop without a warrant from the Secretary of State or a magistrate, but I think the words “without the consent of the occupier” have not had sufficient force given to them; because in point of fact there has been no objection to an inspector visiting a domestic workshop, that is, a place where the family only are employed. They never refuse consent; and I should be very sorry to increase the powers of the inspector, unless it were proved very sufficiently and strongly that there were failures in obtaining justice. And then, with respect to the sanitation and the putting up of notices in these domestic workshops, I do not think it is at all necessary that there should be any regulation with respect to that. As far as children are concerned, that is, children under the age of 14 years who go to school, they can only be employed either before dinner or after dinner; that is precisely the same as in any other factory or workshop. The young persons, that is, males and females under the age of 18, are allowed to work from six to nine, with four and a-half hours' interval for rest and refreshment. It would be very difficult indeed in a domestic workshop, carried on simply by the members of the family, that they should be restricted in all cases to work between the hours of six and six, or seven and seven, or eight and eight; it is much more consonant with the feelings of the family that they should work very much as they like, and

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work at intervals during the day. Then the next point was with respect to workshops where women only are employed. Now that was considered very seriously by Lord Cross when he was going through the consolidation of the Factory Acts, 1878. I should tell you that by the previous Act all places, domestic or not, were under precisely the same restrictions. They could only work between six and six, seven and seven, or eight and eight; but when the consolidation of these Acts was under consideration very strong representations were made to the Secretary of State that there ought to be some relaxation, especially for married women or for "women," that is, adult women; that a very large number of such people, especially in the towns, never came to work early in the morning, and that it was very desirable that they should have very considerable latitude allowed them in their work. And we find it even amongst these sweaters, that the women very rarely go to work before eight, sometimes nine, and sometimes ten, especially in the early days of the week, when there is no work; they very rarely have work before nine or ten in the morning; and that it would be very desirable that these women, especially women with families, should not be restricted to the same precise hours as they would be in an ordinary factory and workshop. And I confess that I retain that opinion. Amongst others who objected very much to women being placed precisely in the same position as young persons was Mr. Henry Fawcett, and there were many men who thought with him; Mr. Dwyer, who was Member for Dublin, being one; and in considering their views and some strong expressions in the House of Commons upon the point, the exception was made that adult women should have greater laxity allowed them in respect to hours. It certainly would be an advantage if, instead of working between six and nine as the Act says, with $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours for meals, there was some regulation that the hours of meals should be fixed up in the workshop. That would ensure to these people that they did have their proper allowance for meals; because we have it in evidence that these women have their meals frequently while at work; and of course common sense requires not only that they should have time for meals, but what is equally important, that they should have time for rest; and though I do not think the evidence has been sufficiently strong that adult women should be placed entirely in the same position as young persons, still it would be advisable that there should be some means of preventing employers depriving them of proper intervals for rest and meals.

32403. But how do you think that could be done?

Simply by requiring the notice of the times for rest to be put up in the workshop.

32404. Do you think that that would be sufficient?

I think that would be sufficient. I was at one time inclined, I confess, to say that these women should be in the same position as other women; but I have thought a great deal of it, especially since the Committee has taken evidence, and I think that it would be better to modify the present law than to repeal it altogether. I think, with respect to depriving these workshops where women only are concerned of the advantages of the sanitary clauses of the Factory Act, it would be a pity; and with regard to the provision under Section 61 which relieves the occupiers of such places, where women only are employed, from fixing up notices, from giving them a half-holiday, and from caring about the lime-washing or sanitary condition of the places, I think it would be a great boon if that were repealed. Then, undoubtedly, there has been a strong feeling with respect to that portion of Section 93 which says that the Act shall not apply to workshops where men only are employed. Well, really the factory inspectors have nothing whatever to do in a workshop where men only are employed. The men can work any hours they like; they need not have any meal times; they may do as they like; and, of course, the primary duty of the factory inspector is to supervise the hours of work and hours of meals. The sanitary condition of the factories and workshops seems to be very much more the duty of the sanitary authorities. I might, perhaps, interpose one idea, and that is, that the Factory Acts were the first Acts which touched the sanitary condition of factories; and for that reason the factory inspectors had something to do with the sanitary condition of factories, and

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and when it became necessary to increase the regulations for the sanitary condition of factories, the factory inspectors have had them to administer. But, logically, the factory inspector should confine himself to hours of work and meals, and the education of children; and the sanitary authorities should have placed upon them the enforcement of the sanitary provisions. I may explain one reason why that division of duties was not made. When the Sanitary Acts were first promoted manufacturers generally objected very strongly to local officers visiting their factories, and they very much preferred that independent inspectors appointed by the Government, such as the inspectors of factories, should be the only persons who should go into their factories; and, consequently, in the Sanitary Act the sanitary condition of the factories and workshops was taken out of the hands of the local authorities, and left in the hands of the inspector of factories. I think that feeling is fading away fast, that the same amount of jealousy of local authorities does not exist now, and that in any amendment of the Factory Act, if we can possibly place the duties of sanitation on the sanitary authorities, it will be very much better than increasing the duties of the factory inspectors.

32405. Do you say that independently of the idea of the factory inspectors having more than they can do at present?

Independently of that idea entirely. I think, logically, the sanitary inspector should undertake the sanitary condition of the factories, and the factory inspector undertake his special duties, which are with relation to education and hours of work. Therefore, I am not strongly in favour of increasing the duties of the factory inspectors wherever sanitary conditions require to be observed in factories.

32406. You are aware that we have had a great deal of evidence in the contrary sense?

I am quite aware of that. I think that the opinions expressed in that evidence arise from this fact: that the factory inspector, when he sees something wrong in the sanitation or anything else, immediately proceeds to have it removed; he has the eye of the public upon him more; he has to report to Parliament; but the sanitary inspector, the local inspector, is a man who is not depended upon in the same way. One reason given by the sanitary inspectors is, that they have more to do than they get through, and that this is a work which they cannot manage without a very great increase of staff; but I believe that that which I have stated is the main reason why there has been a wish that the factory inspectors should undertake more sanitary work, simply because they put more energy into the work, and they take care that what they object to is seen to and ameliorated. I do not know whether the Committee would wish that I should give any explanation of the reasons why there are so many apparent anomalies in the Factory Acts in the absence of one thing and another.

32407. Yes, I think the Committee would be very glad to have your explanation?

The explanation is, that the Factory Acts of 1833 and 1844 were simply confined to textile factories, and the definitions were given very clearly and explicitly. Then in 1845 there was a print works Act passed, and there must be a special definition of that; then there was a Commission sitting, inquiring into all employments where children or young persons were employed, and consequent upon that there were bleach works and dye works added to the Factory Act; there was a special definition for them. Then came lace works; there was a special definition for them. Then afterwards came cartridge factories, percussion cap works, lucifer matches, paper-staining; then came two Acts of 1867, which brought in blast furnaces and iron mills, and all places where power was employed in making any article, or preparing any article. After that Act there was another Act, called the Workshop Act, which defined workshops to be places where anything was done and manufactured, as you have heard described, without the aid of power. That was a place under the local authorities. The local authorities never enforced the Act. Some few years after that, it was placed under the inspectors of factories; and

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then a Commission was appointed in 1875 to consider all the various regulations of these Acts, and to endeavour to consolidate them; and upon the Report of that Commission, the Government of the day brought in the Act of 1878, and they endeavoured to systematise the whole system of factory inspection, especially with respect to employments where some concessions might be made, and especially with respect to overtime. I think a great deal has been said to the Committee upon the question of overtime. It has been very much objected to; but I should like to call the attention of the Committee to the principles upon which overtime is granted.

32408. I do not think the fact of the overtime has been objected to, but the fact that the provisions of the Act as to it are evaded?

Then I have nothing more to say upon these questions of fact.

32409. That more than the time legally allowed is worked?

There is no doubt that in certain cases more overtime is worked than is legal, but I do not know any mode of regulation which would entirely prevent overtime. No Act of Parliament can possibly be drawn which is not subject, more or less, to evasion; and taking the whole country generally, I really do not think that on the question of overtime the Act is so very much evaded.

32410. I am not quite sure that I am right in saying that the fact of overtime has not been objected to; if you wish to explain why overtime is allowed, pray do so. I cannot remember the whole of the evidence that has been given before this Committee, and it may have been objected to?

I think the principal objections to overtime have arisen from the clothing trade, and dressmakers, and tailors, and so on. Now, with respect to the Jew sweaters and the Jew tailors, there is no doubt they have a great desire to work overtime on the Thursday. On the Monday and Tuesday they do not work much in the morning, because they have to go to get their clothes cut, and on Friday they take their goods home; and therefore there is, no doubt, a great desire to work late on Thursday; and whenever there is overtime it is generally found to be on the Thursday. And to show how strong this desire of working late on Thursday is, I will call your attention to this: your Lordship is aware that under the women's clause women may work till nine every night; but if manufacturers, or people keeping workshops, choose to give up that privilege and to have them treated as if they were young persons only, they can work till ten o'clock one night a week. Though these tailors can work till nine o'clock every night, they prefer not to act under that regulation, but to act as if they employed young persons, so that they may have the opportunity of working late on Thursday night. The principal overtime work is undoubtedly on the Thursday night; and the whole principle of overtime has been founded on this ground: that in certain portions of the week, or the year, or the month, the working people do not make full time, and that the working of overtime is as much in the interest of the workpeople as it is in the interest of the employer; and if the list of trades in which overtime is legal is looked at and is examined, it will be seen that in every case, in every trade, it is a trade in which there are times when very little work is done.

32411. Just before you leave that, one thing that has been greatly complained of before the Committee has been that people are compelled to work inordinately long hours for, perhaps, the two last days of the week, and have nothing to do the three first days in the week; I am not speaking of legal overtime, but of excessive hours; and they complain that that is done, on purpose, in the interest of the employers; whereas, on the other hand, it is contended that that is incidental to the exigencies of the trade and business; I do not know whether you could throw any light on that point?

I am sorry to say I cannot. I have seen the evidence your Lordship refers to; in one case it is laid entirely on the greed of the employer, who wants to get the work done at the last moment at the cheapest rate; and I have seen his reply to that, that he does not get his orders sufficiently early. I could not assist the Committee on that point. Perhaps your Lordship would ask me any questions arising upon the whole subject.

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32412. Now that we are upon that point, I might ask you about the suggestion of compulsory registration of all places where work is carried on, all such places being rendered subject to the existing Factory Act?

With respect to registration, I think there is a great deal of misunderstanding on that point. Every factory and every workshop is registered; every inspector has a list of all the factories in his district, and there is in the Home Office a copy of that register of the factories; and every inspector has also a list of all the workshops in his district.

32413. That is to say, when you say he has a list of them all, he ought to have a list of them all?

He keeps a list, which comes to me regularly, of all of which he has knowledge.

32414. Of all that he knows; but that is just the point?

I think what is meant is this: In the case of every factory they are bound to give notice, and that the same law should apply to workshops. That, I presume, is what is intended. I entirely and completely agree to that, that in every case a workshop or factory should be bound to send notice to the principal office.

32415. There is the further question of extending it to the cases of people working in their own rooms?

If they employ children and young persons that is a workshop to all intents and purposes, and the names would be recorded in the same way. If they employ women they would be recorded in the same way, because the inspectors have to see that they do not work after nine at night; and if men only are employed they are entirely beyond our jurisdiction, and we know nothing of them. If in a domestic workshop the people employed are the father, mother, and women, we have nothing to do with them; but if children or young persons are employed, they are as much workshops as an ordinary workshop; the only difference is that a certain variety of regulation applies to them.

32416. Do you think it advisable that those cases where father and mother and women are employed should be brought under the Act?

I should leave them entirely as they are now.

32417. Subject to no control?

Subject to no control; that is to say, the women of the family living in the house.

32418. Such cases would be the only cases in fact that would not come under the Act?

They would be the only cases.

32419. Then I gather from you that you think it rather advisable in regard to sanitation, not only that the factory inspectors should not be given greater powers in sanitary matters, but that they should be relieved of their present duties in respect to sanitary matters?

Not that they should be relieved of the duties connected with the overcrowding and lime-washing of factories, but that with respect to any cleanliness and privies and water-closets, and drains, and so on, the whole of that should be done by the local authority.

32420. I do not know whether you wish to express any opinion as to whether the local authorities are likely to carry it out effectually?

I think that if the inspector of factories gave notice to the local authority that it required to be done, it would be done; but if it is left entirely to the local authority I am afraid it would be a matter of chance whether it would be attended to or not.

32421. Mr. Oram mentioned that practically Section 75, referring to persons giving notice of a factory, was not carried out?

Mr. Oram was quite correct. Legally it would be impossible to prosecute a man for not sending notice unless you knew within two months of his not sending notice that he had commenced a factory.

32422. Therefore, practically, the penalty is inoperative?

Yes, it is inoperative at present.

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[Continued.]

32423. Have you any suggestion to make in that respect?

I have made one or two suggestions, that I want a longer period given; but then the answer to that is that that would give the inspector an opportunity of prosecuting a man a year or two after he had done something wrong, and that that would not be a right thing; and that clause altered.

32424. Are there any special privileges as regards hours in the case of wearing apparel?

The special privilege is that they work from eight to eight, and that they have overtime.

32425. That privilege of overtime is shared by many others?

Yes; and also that they need not have their meals simultaneously.

32426. Are there any special exemptions or privileges accorded to Jews?

Yes; by Sections 50 and 51, where the occupier of a factory is of the Jewish religion and he keeps his factory closed on Saturday, he may employ young persons and women after sunset on Saturday, and if he keeps his factory closed on Saturday he can employ Christians as well as people of the Jewish race for one hour extra on five days of the week; he may employ Christians as well provided that they do not work on Saturday. Then for the Jewish workpeople and the Jewish occupier, he may work until four o'clock on Sunday provided he does not employ them on the Saturday, or does not employ them the hour extra on the five days of the week.

32427. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh*.] What is that provision about one hour extra?

If he does not work on Saturday, he may employ Christians as well as Jewish people the first five days of the week.

32428. And that, if he works on Sunday too?

He may work Jewish people on Sundays.

32429. *Chairman*.] Have you any idea whether the Jewish people being allowed to work on Sundays, has the effect of causing Christians to work on Sundays?

There may be one or two occasions brought to notice, but generally the Christian women will not work on Sundays.

32430. What is that Paper which you are now producing?

That is simply an explanation of the law, which is sent to every Jewish workshop.

32431. That is to say, it contains practically what you have just told us?

Yes.

32432. Lord *Clinton*.] What do you mean by "Jewish workshops;" where the employer is a Jew?

Where the employer is a Jew. An employer, who is a Jew, may employ both Christians and Jews, and if he does do so, he may work one hour extra five days in the week, provided he does not work at all on Saturday. If they are all Jews, he may work on Sunday.

32433. But there may be a Christian employer employing Jews?

A Christian employer employing Jews, is under the Christian law.

32434. And therefore the Jews there will not get the advantage?

They will not get the advantage; they would lose the Saturday and Sunday.

32435. *Chairman*.] We have had it in evidence that the regulations as to overtime are easily evaded, and that the books are tampered with, and so on?

There is no doubt that the book if not properly kept is rather weak evidence, but it is not easy, as I said before, to find out a method of obviating every difficulty that is proposed. In a great number of cases, I believe, the book is sufficient, and that the people are careful enough not to work overtime more than

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[*Continued.*]

than necessary. I think you had it given in evidence a good deal (it certainly has come before me) that as a rule employers are not anxious about overtime if they can do without it, either dressmakers or anybody else; that work is never so well done which is done in overtime after hours, and that it is an annoyance to the employers and extra work to them, and that where it can be avoided it is not carried out. I am very much inclined to think that that is the case. I do not mean to say that the law is not evaded, because it is; but I do not see any very clear way of fixing an employer who is determined to evade the law. Mr. Oram and other gentlemen have suggested the putting up of the overtime notice in the workshops, and the overtime being recorded day by day.

32436. Where do the employers get the books from?

They get them from the Queen's printer. Each book contains 48 cheques. Mr. Oram and other gentlemen have made the suggestion that a notice should be put up in the workshop, and that the time noted should be, I think, noted the same night that the overtime was going to be worked. Undoubtedly the operatives themselves would then see before them the number of times overtime was worked.

32437. Would it not be well if the notice was sent to the inspector?

The notice is sent now.

32438. I mean sent at the time, the same day as the overwork?

It ought to be sent in the morning. This is the instruction in the overtime book: "The prescribed Report is to be made upon the fly-leaf which is to be torn off and posted according to the address printed thereon after adding the name of the inspector of the district, not later than the day following that on which the overtime was worked." You will see it is in shape of a banker's cheque (*producing it and explaining it*).

32439. Do you think that any importance should be attached to the complaint that in certain cases the abstract of the Act is not posted up, and that in certain cases it ought to be translated into the vernacular of the language used by the workers?

I think that the abstracts are pretty fairly put up even in the workshops. I have been into a great many of the sweaters' workshops. I may say that when this Committee was first appointed, I took the opportunity of going to workshops wherever I thought sweating would be carried on, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin, Bristol, and Stroud; and there the abstracts were very fairly exhibited. I do not think there is very much need of a translation. The foreign Jews who come over very soon learn what the general regulations of the Act are. There is one thing I think, that the abstract is unnecessarily diffuse and large. I do not know whether these have been exhibited to you before (*exhibiting an abstract*), and I think that a very much smaller abstract, stating simply what is necessary for the work-person to know, would meet the circumstances. The present Act requires an abstract of the Act to be hung up where it can be easily read by the persons employed. That clearly shows that the object of the abstract is for the workpeople and not for the occupier. I have always contended that if the occupier wants to know anything about the Act he should apply to the inspector, but the work-person should see in half-a-dozen or twenty sentences all that it is needful for him to know.

32440. And you think that it could be usefully condensed?

It could be usefully condensed.

32441. Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.] Is there any object in condensing it for particular kinds of workshops?

I think it would be a very great advantage that it should be condensed for the different kinds of trades, because there are different circumstances and regulations applying to the different trades. Not only is this abstract to be put up, but if the workshop is desired to work from eight to eight there is a separate notice to be put up (*producing it*). If a tailor, or dressmaker, desires to work overtime there is another notice to be put up (*producing it*). If they want to

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substitute another day for the Saturday half-holiday another notice must be put up. I am very much of opinion that the-e, as far as possible, should be condensed into one form; that there should be as little difficulty as possible in understanding these official documents which are to be hung up in that shop.

32442. Lord *Clinton*.] The particulars in that large sheet apply both to the employer and employed?

Yes.

32443. By taking out what applies only to the employer, it would be shortened a great deal?

Yes, there is not a very great deal for the employé to know; he must have his meals at a certain time; the factory must be kept cleanly, and so on; about 20 lines would do it.

32444. *Chairman*.] I think you said that you consider there ought to be a minimum penalty specified; do you consider that the maximum penalty is sufficient?

Yes, I think that is sufficient.

32445. Now, as to the staff that you have to do all your administrative work, do you consider the staff of inspectors sufficient?

No, I do not consider the staff sufficient under any circumstances at all. Mr. Oram mentioned to you the difficulty of getting an increase of staff. I think there ought to be a larger staff; but I am not altogether of the opinion that there should be a very large increase of the staff. I saw in the evidence given by Mr. Hoare that he was satisfied with his staff, and I think others of the inspectors are. In certain districts, of course, there is the want of an addition to the staff, and in parts of London, especially the East End of London, because not only does the population increase, but in London these mechanical trades are going eastward, and it is astonishing how the number of trades are increasing in the eastern part of London; but I am quite of the opinion of one of the working men inspectors, who is not now a working man inspector; he told me that before he was appointed he thought the inspectors did not do a very great deal of work; that there were a great many more inspectors wanted, and that more supervision was required; and speaking for his own district, after he had left he said that he had changed his opinion altogether, that he did not think there was work for a large increase of inspectors; there might be in some districts, but generally he thought that the work was pretty fairly done by the existing inspectors, as far as his district was concerned.

32446. Do you think that the increase should be in the direction of more inspectors, similar in their general status to the existing inspectors, or more assistant inspectors?

I hold a strong opinion that the increase of staff should be of the same condition and position as they are now. Of course there are a certain number of the inspectors who have been appointed from the working-men class; they hold precisely the same position as the inspector of factories, and succeed to districts as vacancies occur. If I could divide the duties of the inspectors into duties of a different class altogether, such as occurs in a public office for instance, where there are a certain number of clerks who do the higher class of work, compose letters and undertake the superior duties, and where there are a number of other clerks who simply attend to figures and copying letters, we might have an inferior class of men on the staff at very much less pay; but as far as I see, an inspector, of whatever class he is, has precisely the same duties to do; he has to visit whatever places there are; he has to exercise the same supervision as a superior inspector, and in every point of view he has the same duties to do; and I think that it would be very much better to have men of the same grade that they have now. Let them have increased responsibility and there is more chance that we can rely upon them than if we had an inferior class of men. It has been mentioned that in localities there is the medical officer of health who has certain sanitary inspectors under him; but the duties of the medical officer of health are entirely different from those of the sanitary inspectors under him, who are paid 80 *l.* or 90 *l.* or 100 *l.* a year; his duties are

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[Continued.]

of a very much higher class; and the sanitary inspector is more of the class of a ferret; a man hunting about for things; he has not to exercise the same authority as the medical officer of health has. Now whatever grade you put the inspector of factories in, whether he is a man at 80 *l.* or 100 *l.* a year, he has precisely the same work to do as his superior. Not only upon that ground, but a man in that position becomes naturally annoyed and dissatisfied, and thinks he ought to get promotion if he does precisely the same work as his chief, and I think that, upon the whole, the present system has worked well, and I should be very sorry to see an inferior class of men appointed with inferior pay, to do precisely the same work.

32447. Do you attach any importance to the idea that technical knowledge would be valuable?

I have several inspectors who were appointed for their technical knowledge. Two inspectors were secretaries to trades' unions; one to the Carpenters and Joiners' Trades Union, another to the Brass Founders' Trades Union. I think two of them have given evidence here; certainly Mr. Davis, who was a brass founder, did. I am not going to find fault with them for a moment. There is only one of them who has been promoted to a superior post, and he is an excellent inspector, but I cannot say that his previous knowledge has been any more use to him than if he had been a stranger to the work. For instance, he was a secretary to the Carpenters' Union. Upon his appointment I was obliged to send him to Birmingham, where there was nothing in which his carpenter's knowledge would be of use to him. Then when he was promoted he went to a woollen district; again his knowledge of the carpenters' trade was not of the slightest use to him. And I think that really an inspector with his eyes open, will know quite as much in a year of the dodges of the trade, living in the district, as a man who has been connected with the trade, and in whose case that would be his only qualification.

32448. It has been suggested that the working people would confide more in men drawn from their own rank of life and knowing their own duties; do you think there is anything in that?

I heard Mr. Shipton say that to-day. Of course I do not for a moment contradict him, but I have heard at the same time, on the other side, that working men are very jealous of these men who are promoted, and are not so likely and apt to confide in them as they are in a man whom they think entirely independent. I may say with respect to the class of inspectors that before they appointed any working man they were objected to by the working men very largely, because they were supposed to be of the class of manufacturers. Many of them have been to college; some in the Army, and some in the Navy, and some in other pursuits; but invariably, whatever the inspector has been before he has come into office, his bias as an inspector has been in favour of the working people.

32449. Can you give the Committee the total number of inspectors?

There are five superintending inspectors: one at Leicester, one at Leeds, one at Glasgow, and two in London. Then there are 39 inspectors of districts.

32450. When you speak of 39 inspectors of districts do you include the juniors?

No; there are 39 inspectors of districts and 11 juniors, that is 50 altogether; and five superintending inspectors, that is 55; there are also two juniors to be appointed. I will furnish you with a fuller statement.

32451. Have you any idea what the number of factories and workshops is? I could not tell you offhand.

32452. Could you furnish it?

Yes; I could furnish you with the last return made two or three years ago.

32453. How long has this staff stood at about this number?

I would rather furnish you with a statement of that.

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[Continued.]

32454. What I would like to get from you is whether the staff has kept up with the increase of factories and workshops?

No, certainly not; when an application was made for a considerable increase of staff the number was objected to and was reduced, and when a smaller number has been applied for, there has been a disinclination to increase expenses.

32455. You mentioned Dublin and Stroud, and some other towns, from which we have taken no evidence; in your opinion is the state of things connected with sweating, if it exists there at all, similar in number and character to the condition of things in the towns from which we have taken evidence?

Entirely different.

32456. In what way?

In Dublin there is very little sweating; indeed hardly any; in fact, I did not come across a single sweater's workshop similar to the London ones; and Belfast the same. In Stroud there is a very large amount of wholesale clothing made in workshops; the workshops, a good many of them, are owned by persons of the Jewish persuasion; they are all clean, well-appointed workshops. It is a different system there altogether; and also, as far as I could ascertain, the rate of pay was a very fair rate. I also saw small workshops in the villages round Stroud and Bristol occupied by a woman employing four or five young persons and women; the people are decent people and satisfied with the pay; in Bristol itself I saw a few poor places.

32457. Have you followed the evidence pretty closely that has been given before the Committee?

Yes.

32458. Would you say that it fairly represents the state of the case?

I should think it does. I know the nail and chain district well; I have been at Birmingham and all those places.

32459. Have you any remarks you would wish to make in respect of the evidence that has been given before the Committee?

The evidence that I have read which has been taken before the Committee is principally that which is more connected with my own duties. I have not read that, for instance, of Mr. Maple, and a variety of evidence where it was simply a question of wages between master and man; but I have read pretty carefully the evidence which has been given with respect to the condition of the people, and the conditions under which they live; and I should say upon the whole it has been a fair statement of the state of things. Of course there have been objections made by some of the inspectors that the evidence was overcharged. Possibly some of the worst cases were brought before the Committee; but generally I should say the evidence was pretty fairly given.

32460. Have you any further suggestions you would like to make?

Mr. Shipton made a remark (I mention it *en passant*) that complaints were not attended to because of the insufficiency of the staff. He is not quite right there; because complaints are always attended to before anything else; no complaint is ever received by an inspector, or at any office, which is not attended to as soon as possible. If a complaint comes the ordinary work of inspection is put aside till it can be attended to. A great many complaints are made undoubtedly (I receive a great many) by people who do not know what the law is, and they are made anonymously, and I am unable to put the people right. For instance, it is a very common notion that work should cease in every workshop at two o'clock on Saturday. I have frequent complaints of persons working till four, and the cases are perfectly legal, but I cannot reply to the people making the complaint and tell them that they are wrong. The same with regard to a good many places where they may legally work till eight at night.

32461. That source of complaint would be removed if your suggestion about simplifying the abstract were carried out?

Yes; it would make the things better known if people could read them.

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[*Continued.*]

32462. Lord *Clifford of Chudleigh.*] I understand that your objection to the inspectors having anything to do with the sanitary work is only to sanitary work in its strict sense?

In its strict sense.

32463. That everything with regard to ventilation and sufficient accommodation, and everything connected with factory jurisdiction, should be dealt with by the factory inspector?

Yes.

32464. Are you at all in favour of having progressive penalties; higher penalties for a second offence, and so on?

There is an enactment with respect to that; I am very strongly in favour of there being a minimum penalty.

32465. Lord *Clinton.*] I think you said that if the sanitary powers now exercised by the factory inspector were transferred to the sanitary authorities as suggested, probably the work might be neglected?

Undoubtedly, unless the sanitary authorities were kept up to the mark by the factory inspector.

32466. You are satisfied, are you, with the way in which the sanitary inspectors are appointed?

Certainly; I think they should be appointed entirely by the local authority, as they are now.

32467. We have had evidence from persons who think that they should be appointed by some Government authority, but you are not in favour of that?

I am not in favour of that. There is one point that I omitted to mention with reference to the sweaters, namely, the difficulty of dealing with sweaters; with regard to ensuring the proper sanitary condition of their houses. The idea which I had was, that every contractor or merchant who gave out goods or gave out cloth for contract or otherwise, should, as Mr. Oram mentioned, be bound to send the names of the persons to whom he gave out those goods to the inspector; the inspector should then visit the workshop, the name of which he had; if he found it in an insanitary condition, he should give notice to the contractor not to send goods there till it was put into a sanitary condition. For this reason, that the buyer knows nothing about where these things are made, or under what conditions they are made; and that the contractor, the man who sells them, is the person who ought to be made responsible for their being manufactured in a healthy and wholesome place; and I think that we should make him responsible for sending the goods to a place where they would be properly manufactured, and in a sanitary way.

32468. One more question with regard to the sanitary inspector; are you of opinion that the sanitary inspector should be appointed by the local authority?

I should not interfere at all with the mode of appointment or dismissal of the sanitary inspector.

32469. One question with regard to the factory inspectors' districts; when were the factory inspectors' districts arranged?

The last main arrangement was made in 1872. Then afterwards, when the Act of 1878 was passed, there were some modifications made. Of course I should tell you why. There were originally four chief inspectors, and they got gradually reduced to two; then when my colleague retired, of course the whole came under my hands, and then in amalgamating the two large districts there were some alterations made.

32470. On what principle were the arrangements made, with regard to population?

Population, nature of the work, and means of access. You had to take an entirely different mode of arranging each. For instance, take Ashton or Oldham, which are purely cotton manufacturing towns, where the establishments are very large, and employing a large number of people, and the inspection of which takes up a considerable time; and when a number of children are employed

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[Continued.]

there is considerable time taken up in verifying their attendance. The district of Ashton-under-Lyne is a very small one; six or seven miles long by as many broad. I then go to another district, shall I say Southampton? There is not a great deal to do in Southampton itself, but there is a good deal of small work to do in the counties of Hampshire and Dorsetshire, and Wiltshire, in the neighbourhood of it. That district is a very large one in area; at the same time there is not a very great deal to do in particular factories. The residence of the inspector has always been fixed according to the best means of access to all parts of his district. As a rule an inspector resides in a town where there are several main lines, and he takes the work in the factories and workshops that lie along these main lines.

32471. Will the Paper you put in show us the amount of population and the area included in the factory inspectors' districts?

I will do my best to give that. I could, if necessary, give a map which would show the lines. I may state that there is a Parliamentary Return of the population, showing the number of workshops, and the places where the inspectors lived.

32472. Up to what date?

A year or two ago; at any rate, if it is different from the present time, you shall have a statement of it as it exists now.

32473. *Chairman.*] I do not know whether you expressed any opinion as to whether it would be desirable that the law should interfere now in any way with adult male labour?

I am very strongly of opinion that the adult male labourers are quite able to provide for themselves if they wish, and that it is not at all necessary for the State to interfere with them.

32474. Have you anything else you would like to say?

No, I do not think there is anything further I wish to mention to you, except it may be on one small point. One gentleman said that there was a difficulty caused by the regulations; that he did not visit at night, because he was not allowed a conveyance and expenses. He was under some mistake, because though there are very strict regulations as to the expenses that are incurred, yet in the case of a man visiting at night he is always allowed to charge whatever cab-fare he incurs, that being provided on purpose that men should not be restricted from visiting at night, because it is distant, or disagreeable, or wet, or anything of that sort. A man is always entitled to a cab when it is wet, and is always entitled to a cab when he visits after hours or before hours.

32475. I do not remember the particular case, but it might have reference to some particular district, I suppose?

Some question was asked, as to visiting at night, of Mr. Hoare, and, I think, he mixed up a little the particular allowances.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

THE HONOURABLE EDWARD PEIRSON THESIGER, C.B., is further
Examined, as follows:

32476. *Chairman.*] HAVE you prepared an abstract of the regulations of certain foreign countries respecting the admission and continued residence of destitute aliens?

Yes, of the regulations made by Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States, which I believe are the countries as to which your Lordship wished me to prepare such an abstract. (*See Appendix.*)

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned.

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A P P E N D I X.

APPENDIX A.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Julius Pinto*, 2 May 1889.

M E M O R A N D U M.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <i>Statistics</i> | - | - | THE accompanying table shows that, in the summer of 1888, when the question of the Sweating System was brought prominently before the public through the medium of the Press, there were 29 Jewish master tailors in Glasgow employing 370 adults, consisting of 86 Jews, 74 Jewesses, 10 male Christians, and 200 female Christians, and, in addition, 12 apprentices—in all 382 workers. |
| <i>Definition</i> | - | - | According to the definition of the term “Sweating,” as given by Mr. Arnold White in his evidence before the Commission, viz.:—“the taking out of work from a wholesale manufacturer or shop-keeper by a contractor, who lets it out to a sub-contractor, who in his turn employs men and women to do the work, the contractor or middleman deriving a profit by this transaction without himself performing any share of the work,” I beg to submit that no such system is in operation amongst the Jewish tailors in Glasgow, because (a) the contractor or master tailor receives the work direct from the manufacturer, (b) he has to direct and supervise his <i>employés</i> , and (c) to perform the most arduous and particular portion of the work himself. |
| <i>Denial of existence in Glasgow.</i> | | | |
| <i>Reasons</i> | - | - | |
| <i>Sanitary Conditions</i> | | | The work is carried on in both workshops and dwelling-houses; of the former there are 11, which are for the most part large, airy, and well provided with windows. Of the latter class—i.e., dwelling-houses—there are 18, ranging in accommodation from two to six apartments, and, with a few rare exceptions, are models of cleanliness. |
| <i>Prices and Wages</i> | - | | The prices paid to the masters for men’s jackets, five years ago, ranged from 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> each; the prices paid now for the same class of goods vary from 1 <i>s.</i> to 2 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> each; while the prices to the masters have thus decreased, the wages paid to the workers have concurrently increased. Female machinists, who, five years ago, earned 15 <i>s.</i> or 20 <i>s.</i> per week of 55 hours, now receive, under identical conditions, from 20 <i>s.</i> to 30 <i>s.</i> per week. The wages of other workers have risen proportionately. |
| <i>Factories and Public Health Acts.</i> | | | Since the Factories Act came into operation there have been but two convictions recorded against Jewish employers, and no convictions whatever under the Public Health Act. |
| <i>Foreign Immigration.</i> | | | Within recent years there has been a steady diminution of Jewish tailors. Foreign immigration being here an insignificant factor, the vacancies occasioned by those leaving the city are not replaced. |
| <i>Proposed Remedies</i> | | | Did the Sweating System prevail amongst the Jewish employers, the remedies I would suggest are: (a) all workshops to be licensed, and (b) <i>registered to accommodate a given number of workers</i> ; (c) sanitary supervision of workshops to be delegated to Imperial instead of local authorities; and (d) infringement of sanitary or factory acts to subject the delinquent to suitable penalties, involving eventually deprivation of license. |

28, Gallowgate, Glasgow,
25 February 1889.

Julius Pinto.

TABLE showing the Jewish Master Tailors in Glasgow, and

I. No.	II. EMPLOYER.		III. Class of Work.	IV. DIMENSIONS OF FACTORY.											Accommo- dating	Surplus Cubic Feet.
	(a.)	(b.)		(a.) Workroom.			(b.) Workplace.			(c.) Workshop.			(d.)	(e.)		
	Name.	Address.		Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Cubic Feet.			
1	Abrahams, J.	Charlotte-street	Coat maker	17	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,448	9	198	
2	Abrahams, N.	70, Robertson-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	24	16.6	6	-	-	-	2,376	9	126	
3	Abrahams, S.	43, Lanark-street	- ditto -	12	13	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,401	5	154	
4	Benjamin, J.	22, Argyle-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	11	8	3,432	13	82	
5	Cohen, J.	132, Trongate	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	22	10.6	10,857	43	107	
6	Cohen, M.	64, Paterson-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	30	14	15,060	60	60	
7	Cohen, M.	140, Stockwell-street	- ditto -	14.6	7	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,038½	16	38½	
8	Davis, A.	5, Stockwell-place	- ditto -	18	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,520	10	20	
9	Epman, A. J.	92, Hospital-street	- ditto -	14	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,694	6	194	
10	Elstein, N.	41, North Albion-street.	- ditto -	14	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,070	16	70	
11	Friend, B.	457, Argyle-street	- ditto -	9	11	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,722½	10	220½	
12	Goldberg, I.	70, Hutcheson-street	- ditto -	15	16.6	11	-	-	-	27	18	9	4,374	17	124	
13	Goldstein, P.	457, Argyle-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,722½	10	220½	
14	Isaacs, I.	1, Maitland-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	27	12	10,692	42	192	
15	Jacobs, B.	2, Commerce-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	33	12	13,068	52	68	
16	Jacobs, H.	21, Clyde-place	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	29	10.6	10,962	43	212	
17	Joelowitz	5, Main-street	- ditto -	15	15	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,475	9	225	
18	Kronson, B.	13, Crown-street	- ditto -	15	16	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,400	9	150	
19	Levy, S.	John-street	- ditto -	15	23	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,450	13	200	
20	Lissack, H.	64, Paterson-street	Mantle maker	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	27	14	13,220	52	230	
21	Orrowitz	Rutherglen-road	Coat maker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
22	Phillips, B.	78, Stockwell-street	Mantle maker	18	13.6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,390	13	140	
23	Pinkus, S.	Hutcheson-street	Coat maker	12	8	10	-	-	-	27	29	10	5,400	21	150	
24	Posener, J.	51, Bridge-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,728	6	228	
25	Samuels, J.	14, East Nile-street	- ditto -	16	12	9	-	-	-	72	36	11	28,512	114	12	
26	Solomon, M.	17, Hospital-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	784	3	34	
27	Strumpf	41, North Albion-street.	Vest maker	14	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,600	18	10	
28	Symons, D.	111, Main-street	Coat maker	23	20	10	-	-	-	40	19	9	6,840	27	90	
29	Symons, M.	114, Oxford-street	- ditto -	-	-	-	13	16	7.6	-	-	-	3,240	12	240	
							14	16	7.6							

EXPLANATION.—The Roman numerals indicate columns which are divided into sections under the *Italic* headings, which are again sub-divided into sub-sections.

Workroom.—Part of a dwelling-house on the same level as domestic apartments.

Workplace.—Part of a dwelling-house on different level as domestic apartments, solely used as a factory.

Workshop.—Detached factory.

Employés engaged in working for Wholesale and Retail Firms.

V. Situation of Lavatory.	VI. NUMBER OF EMPLOYÉS.								VII. Years Resident in		VIII.	IX.
											Previous Residence.	REMARKS.
	(a.) Males.			(b.) Females.			(c.)	(d.)	(a.)	(b.)		
	Jews.	Christians.	Total.	Jews.	Christians.	Total.	Appren- tices.	Grand Total.	Glasgow.	Britain.		
In lobby on stair -	2	1	3	1	1	2	-	5	13	-	London	Two years master.
- ditto - - -	3	1	4	1	7	8	1	13	15	-	ditto.	
- ditto - - -	2	-	2	2	1	3	1	6	8	21	ditto.	
None - - -	1	1	2	3	8	11	1	14	15	17	ditto.	
Off workshop; en- closed.	3	1	4	6	8	14	-	18	5	12	Liverpool	Since ceased to be master (1889).
In lobby on stair -	6	-	6	4	16	20	-	26	15	23	London.	
- ditto - - -	3	-	3	2	7	9	-	12	15	18	ditto.	
- ditto - - -	3	-	3	1	3	4	-	7	2	19	---	
- ditto - - -	3	-	3	3	5	8	-	11	6	6	Continent.	
- ditto - - -	6	-	6	6	4	10	-	16	16	-	London.	
- ditto - - -	3	-	3	1	4	5	-	8	15	-	Leeds.	
Outside in yard -	2	-	2	5	5	10	-	12	15	-	London.	
In lobby - - -	4	-	4	-	5	5	1	10	12	-	ditto.	
- ditto - - -	2	-	2	1	5	6	1	9	18	-	ditto.	
In lobby outside -	6	-	6	10	9	19	1	26	16	18	ditto.	Absent from Britain a short time.
Off workshop; en- closed.	8	1	9	9	15	24	3	38	16	18	ditto.	
—	4	-	4	3	-	3	-	7	-	-	—	
In lobby - - -	-	2	2	-	3	3	-	5	9	17	Edinburgh	
- ditto - - -	3	-	3	3	2	5	-	8	16	-	London.	
In lobby outside -	-	1	1	1	25	26	-	27	15	22	ditto.	
—	1	-	1	-	2	2	-	3	13	-	Continent	
In lobby - - -	2	-	2	1	12	13	1	16	15	-	London.	
In lobby outside -	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	6	4	25	ditto.	
In lobby - - -	1	-	1	-	5	5	-	6	15	-	ditto.	
Off workshop; en- closed.	8	-	8	4	11	15	1	24	15	17	ditto.	Since ceased to be master (1889).
In lobby - - -	1	-	1	1	2	3	-	4	-	-	Continent.	
- ditto - - -	2	1	3	-	16	16	-	19	8	22	London.	
Off workshop - -	3	-	3	3	2	5	-	8	12	22	ditto.	
Off workshop (large)	3	-	3	2	15	17	-	20	11	-	ditto	
												Leaving for Leeds in May 1889.

This Table was compiled between the months of June and August 1883.

(signed)

Julius Plato,
28, Gallowgate, Glasgow.David Hartock,
8, Maxwellton-place, Glasgow.

APPENDIX B.

PAPER handed in by Mr. C. W. Hoare, 10th May 1889.

TAILORS' SWEATING.

Sir,

Wolverhampton, 15 February 1889.

THERE are two wholesale tailoring establishments in this district. In the one, all work is done on the premises, the machines are driven by steam power, the hours of work are short and the wages paid fair.

In the other, situated in Dudley, there are about 150 hands at work in the warehouse, 12 of whom are female apprentices; the hours of work are short, and the overtime privilege is seldom used. There are two branch works under Jews; these take out the work at a price per garment and pay a large number of hands to help in making the garments at a weekly wage, according to their capabilities. Apprentices are employed at these shops, and the best of the work is done in them; the hours are not excessive. The warehouse also employs a large number of outworkers, who take the work out by the piece, and do it at their own homes; most of them live in and around Coseley; they make up the cheapest work, and work not only for the Dudley warehouse, but for firms in Birmingham and Wednesbury; they too employ apprentices; at present they are not very busy, but in times past they have worked long hours; report says some of them very long hours.

The further these apprentices are from head-quarters the worse they fare; thus:—

1. At the warehouse they get 1 s. a week to start with, after a month it may be 1 s. 6 d. a week, and after six months they are put upon piece-work.

2. At the branch shops they are nominally bound for two years, the first without any wages, then six months at 1 s. a week, and the remainder at 3 s. a week; after, they will get from 6 s. to 10 s. a week.

3. In the private houses they are nominally bound for two years without wages, but if they pay 10 s. it is reduced to 18 months, and if they pay 20 s. to 12 months if an apprentice loses any time she has to make it up at the end of her term.

These girls are apprenticed to learn the tailoring trade.

Against the No. 1 plan I have nothing to say; No. 2 appears to be very favourable to the middleman, although his apprentices can learn something of the trade; but No. 3 is simply scandalous, for the girls are not taken as apprentices unless they can sew fairly; from the time they have been at work a month they are earning money for their mistresses, and they are never taught more than putting garments together, and using a sewing machine. I firmly believe that many of them from first to last only work at putting cord and moleskin trousers together, and the same with boys' knickerbockers.

The outworkers cling most tenaciously to working in their own homes, and consequently get, especially in slack times, the poorest paid of the work; they have, in addition, to suffer other hardships, as the following statements will show, and on the truth of which I can rely:—

Mrs. — says, We receive 5 d. per pair for making youths' trousers, 6 d. per pair for making cord trousers, 6½ d. per pair for making moleskin trousers. A pair of white moles takes 1¼ d. for thread, which we have to provide; we are not allowed to use cotton. We have to walk five miles for each lot of work, and lately we have had to go nearly every day, and sometimes twice a day, and when we go we often have to wait many hours before we can get any.

Another woman says, I dislike my girl having to hang about so long in Dudley waiting to get work.

Another says, I am now receiving 7 d. and 7½ d. a pair for making moles, but they are doubled stitched, and I have to provide my own thread, and take them to and from Birmingham, 14 miles.

Another says, My children are making children's knicks, for which I am getting 2 s. 6 d. a dozen pairs with linings. I provide the cotton, and it is very poor pay; but for some I believe only 2 s. a dozen is paid.

Another was making men's cords at 5 d. a pair.

Another was making larger knicks at 2 s. 9 d. a dozen pair.

Another was making double-breasted reefer coats, with 10 button holes, at 1 s. 4 d. each.

They pay at the warehouse for making reefers from 1 s. 1 d. to 2 s. 3 d. each, according to quality.

When trade is bad these outworkers will take out work at almost any price, underbidding each other to secure the orders.

One sweater, whom I suspected of overworking his hands, and watched, removed, and for many months I could not trace him; when I did I caught him at the overwork, and I believe he was carrying it on systematically.

In Dudley some dressmakers bind their apprentices for two to three years, and pay them no wages, and sometimes a premium is paid; but then they teach them every branch of the trade.

An

An inspector would have a better chance of putting down excessive hours of work if every employer had to register his workroom, put up his hours of work and meals, keep a register of the allowed overtime, duly recorded within 24 hours of its being worked, in the workroom.

I see no reason why this allowed overtime should not be repaid to the hands; 60 hours' work a week is quite enough strain on the health of any woman or girl, and too much in hundreds of the badly-arranged workrooms of the large towns.

I believe, to introduce philanthropy into the tailoring (wholesale) trade, and to eradicate sweating from it, are well nigh impossible.

R. E. S. Oram, Esq.

I am, &c.
(signed) C. W. Hoare.

APPENDIX C.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *E. Pugh*, 16th May 1889.

SUBJOINED is the account of our inquiries into the Sweating System in this town, and we believe the 69 places reported do not represent more than one-half, if that, of the sweating dens in the town.

The figures in the columns representing men and females are those of the sweater himself, as a rule, and in many instances by no means represent the correct number, or the number that he employs, as stated by his fellow sweater.

The difficulties of getting into their workrooms, unless they are entered by surprise, are almost insurmountable. Although the chief district of the sweater is in a rather dirty and somewhat disreputable neighbourhood, it is by no means confined to it, for besides being distributed in nearly all parts of the town, many of the houses occupied by the sweater are nice fronted, having a very respectable look, and being in a very respectable neighbourhood.

The English Jews complain that they are under-sweated, not only by the foreign pauper Jew, who is finding his way to Birmingham, but also in some cases by Englishmen, and we regret to acknowledge that the complaint has foundation in fact. Another aspect of the system is that trades in some of the principal thoroughfares, with a shop front, ticketed goods in the window, and notices that garments will be made to measure for the figures on the ticket, let their workshop rooms to sweaters who, besides making up their garments, work for other master tailors; and in some instances where there is more work than they can complete in these workrooms, the garments are sent out to an under-sweater, who makes them for less than the first, so that in the end the workers are doubly sweated.

In case of refusal of admission to these private workshops, whether sweaters or not, the Factories and Workshops Act does not give the inspectors power to deal with the evil, except by the cumbrous method of magistrate's warrant, and by the time that is obtained everything is either put in order or the occupant has removed.

The constantly growing evil of sweating, in our opinion, can only be grappled with by Act of Parliament, that should include the following regulation:

- 1st. The compulsory registration of all workshops by the employers, whether such workshops are private houses of their employes or provided by the employer himself.
- 2nd. An easy system of registration.
- 3rd. A larger number of inspectors or sub-inspectors, such inspectors to be thoroughly qualified working men.
- 4th. Increased power of inspection, that is to say, where the inspector suspects that the Act is being infringed, he shall have power to demand immediate access to the workshop, and in case of refusal or unnecessary delay, he shall be supported by the police.

We recommend that only such foreign immigrants should be allowed to land in this country as can prove that they can earn their livelihood at some specified trade; that those who cannot show that they are competent workmen, or have other means of support, shall not be allowed to land.

(signed) *Edward Pugh*, } Deputation.
John Gilpin, }
P. J. Hooban, President.
Thomas Askey, Secretary.

LIST of Places in Birmingham referred to in the foregoing Report.

Number of Court.	Number of House.	NAME.	REMARKS.	Number of Men.	Number of Women and Girls.
		Hurst-street :			
13	7	Goldstein - -	Small house and very dirty -	1	2
-	34	Solomon - -	Work conducted in the attic, the roof and ceiling let in the rain ; the man and his place both dirty.	2	3
11	-	Davis Popkins -	Good detached workshop - -	4	7
-	-	Gold - - -	Could not get into workshop as it was through the house. He employed 12 altogether.	-	-
		Thorp-street :			
-	47	Solomon Davis Isaacs.	- - - -	2	3
		Inge-street :			
-	23	Smith - - -	Works at ladies' jackets ; could not get up stairs to see.	2	3
-	45	Simon Solomon -	The approach to this workshop was very bad, and the room itself was over some privies and washhouses.	2	1
-	-	Yellowvitch - -	- - - -	4	5
		Kent-street :			
-	49	Jacobs - - -	Worked in the garret - -	1	4
		Bishop-street :			
-	200	{ Philip Jacobs - Joseph Nathan - Goldman - - }	{ These are large-fronted houses }	2 2 2	2 2 3
		Barford-street :			
-	184	Seagar - - -	Front shop, with ticketed goods in window ; works for other shops.	3	4
		Wrentham-street :			
-	20	Josephs - - -	{ These were both large houses }	3	4
-	75	Silverman - - -		4	4
		Benacre-street :			
-	30	Cohen - - -	English Jew ; small front window ; works with his daughters ; makes his own orders trade, and fills up from shops.	1	2
		Great Colmore-street :			
-	6	Barnett - - -	Work done in two rooms at top of house ; a stove and bed in the one used for pressing.	5 and 2 boys	8
		Irving-street :			
-	-	Wolfe - - -	Workshop off the premises -	3	3

List of Places in Birmingham referred to in the foregoing Report—*continued.*

Number of Court.	Number of House.	NAME.	REMARKS.	Number of Men.	Number of Women and Girls.
		Florence-street:			
-	-	Israel - - -	Saw woman, but could get no information from her; the numbers were given by a neighbour.	3	8
Florence Grove.	7	Solomon - - -	Himself and five daughters -	1	5
-	6	Silverstein - - -	Small house; himself and daughter working; he said he was well paid.	1	1
-	-	Friedman - - -	Intelligent English-speaking Jew, works for Kino; gets 3 s. and 4 s. for coats; says he is compelled to work for so low a price by other people doing so.	3	3
-	-	Hyman - - -	Employs about eight altogether making trousers, presses himself, gives the girls 10 d. each for making, and has 11 d. himself for machines and pressing.	3	4
-	-	F. Roy - - -	- - - -	1	8
		Marshall-street:			
-	-	Bloom - - -	- - - -	2	3
-	-	Useer - - -	This man complained of his neighbour Bloom making trade at a very cheap rate.	2	3
		Ellis street:			
-	1	Cohen - - -	Could not get in; heard that he sometimes had many working for him, and sometimes none.	-	-
-	44	Abrahams - - -	Good detached workshop. This man complained of Cohen making up cheap work.	2	15
-	19	R. Abrahams - -	Only just starting - - -	1	2
		Geugh-street:			
-	21	Isuacs - - -	Employs several, and makes slippers as well as tailoring.	-	-
-	-	Dresdan - - -	Speaks English very poorly; the figures are his own; and would not admit us.	6	7
		Essex-street:			
-	42	Simons - - -	Young man, only recently started to work out for Nicolls.	1	1
-	29	Jacob Cave - - -	Young man; his own figures -	2	3
-	78	Baker - - -	Young man; his own figures -	2	4
		Lower Essex-street:			
-	32½	Levi - - -	- - - -	4	4
-	-	M. Sock - - -	Intelligent communicative Jew; employs more when he is busy. Workshop detached.	8	4

List of Places in Birmingham referred to in the foregoing Report—*continued.*

Number of Court.	Number of House.	NAME.	REMARKS.	Number of Men.	Number of Women and Girls.
		Dean-street :			
-	70	Jacobs - -	- - - -	1	1
		Upper Dean-street :			
-	8	Solomon Cohen -	Young man; him and wife very voluble, too much so to make a correct report of his statement. Said that he should be very glad to get more for his work, only he could make it as cheap as anybody else.	3	2
		Duddeston-row :			
-	-	Harris - - -	Two families living together; a dirty place.	3	4
		Belmont-row :			
-	10	Edwards - - -	- - - -	2	6
-	43	Paget - - -	This man is now working in rooms over Dean's shop in High-street, having taken his machines there, and employs a number of girls.	1	3
		Coleshill-street :			
-	-	Hughes - - -	Said he got 1 s. 8 d. per pair for trousers, and gave the girls 10 d. per pair, but could do better by giving them to be made out.	1	3
		Coventry-street :			
-	23	La Dine - - -	Could not get any correct information.	3	3
		Allison-street :			
-	6	Miss Davies - -	This is a beerhouse; mother and daughter living together, the man only employed occasionally.	1	6
		Bordesley :			
-	-	Mrs. Millward -	Makes cords and moleskin trousers at 6½ d. per pair.	-	23
		Moseley-road :			
-	459	Goodman - - -	Big house, working all over it	3	Several
		Carr's-lane :			
-	12	Deeley - - -	Makes ladies' jackets for Roberts, Arcade.	2	2
		Bull-street :			
Back -	71	G. Frolic - - -	Keeps a quantity; could not get any definite information.	-	-
		Corporation-street :			
1	3	Millward - - -	Makes trousers for Lewis's at 1 s. 8 d. up to 2 s. per pair	3	9

List of Places in Birmingham referred to in the foregoing Report—*continued*

Number of Court.	Number of House.	NAME.	REMARKS.	Number of Men.	Number of Women and Girls.
-	24	Newton-street : Morris - -	- - - -	2	3
Gothic Arcade.	10	Snow-hill : Adcock - -	Makes trousers for several firms, and works all night Thursday and Friday.	1	3
Back -	61	Arkwright - -	This shop is reached by ascending a ladder and through a hole in the floor.	2	5
-	50	Loveday-street : Solomon - -	These numbers are not correct as he employs eight girls.	2	3
-	-	Claybrook-street : Davis Abrahams -	Family making vests for Rosenberg and Newfiess.	1	1
-	-	Summer-lane : Davis - - -	This is a front shop; the man makes up his own work and takes trade from other firms at from 6 s. to 8 s. per coat; what he cannot make he gives out to others to make for 5 s. per coat, and said he could get any number made at the rate of 4 s. 6 d.	1	3
-	-	Peters - - -	This man has two shops and follows the same plan as the one above, Davis.	4	8
-	11	Camden-street : Davis - - -	- - - -	2	3
-	35	Goldman - - -	- - - -	1	2
-	83	Marks Kinderman	Employs several, and works late and early.	-	-
-	90	King Edward's-road : Cortis - - -	- - - -	2	6
-	96	Blickers - - -	- - - -	1	8
-	55	Smith-street, Hockley : Bryan - - -	A very dirty place; works for Roberts and for Smith.	1	3
-	-	Bromsgrove-street : Jacob Brown -	Employs several, and is reported by the others as taking work at any price that is given him.	-	-

APPENDIX D.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *W. J. Davis*, 21st May 1889.

TABLE showing Conditions under which OUT-WORKERS

JANUARY 1889.

N A M E.	Average Weekly Wages.	By whom Employed.	Occupation.	Price per Garment.	Cost of Machine.	Cost of Repairs per Year.	Do you go for the Work, and take it in ?	Do you find any Materials besides Silk and Thread for the Machine ?
	<i>s. d.</i>			<i>s. d.</i> <i>s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
Swindell, Miss - -	16 -	Whitworth - -	Vest - -	2 3 to 3 -	7 7 -	5 -	yes	no
Jordan, S. - -	27 6	- ditto - -	Coat - -	6 6 „ 8 6	15 - -	16 -	yes	no
Denni-, Mrs. - -	19 6	Thompson - -	Vest - -	3 - „ 3 6	7 17 -	3 -	yes	no
Dennis, Miss - -	19 6	- ditto - -	Vest - -	3 - „ 3 6	8 10 -	3 -	yes	no
Gillier, Mrs. - -	16 -	Kino - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 2 6	7 7 -	3 -	yes	and hand-sewing.
Gillier, Miss - -	16 -	Thompson - -	Vest - -	2 9 „ 3 -	7 7 -	3 -	yes	- ditto -
Byson, Mrs. - -	20 -	Whitworth, R. -	Vest - -	2 - „ 3 -	7 7 -	3 -	yes	no
Higgins, D. - -	22 -	Binns - -	Coat - -	7 6 „ 10 6	8 - -	5 -	yes	no
Higgins, M. - -	12 -	Waters - -	Trousers -	2 3 „ 2 9	- -	-	yes	no
Dore, Mrs. - -	16 6	Whitworth - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 2 6	9 - -	8 -	yes	no
Robinson, Mrs. -	16 -	Ormrod - -	Vest - -	3 - „ 3 6	7 10 -	2 -	yes	no
Biddle, Miss - -	16 6	ditto - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 3 3	7 10 -	2 -	yes	no
Commack, Mrs. -	12 -	ditto - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 3 9	6 10 -	2 -	yes	no
Banks, Mrs. - -	15 -	ditto - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 3 9	7 7 -	2 -	yes	no
Hebden, Mrs. - -	14 -	- ditto - -	Vest - -	2 3 „ 3 6	7 17 6	2 -	yes	no
Longmate, W. - -	36 -	Foster - -	Vest - -	3 6 „ 5 6	3 10 -	1 -	yes	no
Pickard, E. - -	32 6	ditto - -	Coat - -	11 - „ 12 -	7 - -	3 -	yes	no
Needham, A. - -	28 -	Ormrod - -	Coat - -	6 6 „ 10 -	- -	-	yes	no
Cooper, W. - -	21 -	Everett - -	Trousers -	3 - „ 4 6	9 10 -	2 -	yes	no
Dixon, T. - -	27 -	Ormrod - -	Trousers -	2 9 „ 4 8	7 7 -	3 -	yes	no
Whitworth, J. - -	-	ditto - -	Repairs -	5 per hour -	9 - -	2 -	yes	no
Dixon, F. - -	50 -	ditto - -	Ladies' garments	Special -	8 10 -	-	-	-

Note 1.—The number of garments made in a week is based upon the calculation of taking one with another.

Note 2.—Machine sewings cost from 3 *d.* to 8 *d.* per week.

FEBRUARY 1889.

N A M E.	Average Weekly Wages.	By whom Employed.	Occupation.	Price per Garment.	Cost of Machine.	Cost of Repairs per Year.	Do you go for the Work, and take it in ?	Do you find any Materials besides Silk and Thread for the Machine ?
	<i>s. d.</i>			<i>s. d.</i> <i>s. d.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
Freeman - -	43 -	—	Trousers - -	3 - to 4 -	8 15 -	5 -	yes	no
Gillboringe - -	35 -	—	Coat - -	6 6 „ 11 -	8 15 -	10 -	yes	yes
Shear - -	35 -	—	Coat - -	6 6 „ 11 -	8 15 -	10 -	yes	yes
Garwell - -	40 -	—	Coat - -	9 - „ 11 -	7 15 -	5 -	yes	no
Garwell - -	24 -	—	Trousers - -	3 10 „ 4 2	7 15 -	5 -	yes	no
Perron - -	37 -	—	Coat - -	6 - „ 12 -	7 15 -	5 -	yes	no
Myers - -	-	Bridge, F. - -	In list of names complained of by Mr. Councilor Llewellyan.					—
Thompson - -	-	Carver, F. - -	- ditto -	ditto -	ditto -	ditto -	-	—

APPENDIX D.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *W. J. Davis*, 21st May 1889.

in the TAILORING TRADE of Sheffield are Employed.

JANUARY 1889.

What are your Working Hours per Week?	How many Garments can you make in a full Week without working Overtime?	How many Weeks are you employed in a Year?	Do you Work on Stock Orders?	What are the Prices for this Work?	Have you any means of knowing if the Work is for Stock or Order?	Do you employ a Machinist or an Apprentice?	How much do you Pay for this Labour per Week?	Have you ever had Infection in the House?	Sanitary Conditions.	REMARKS.
60	8	40	yes	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8 to 2 -	no.	yes	<i>s. d.</i> 4 -	no	Excellent.	A case of small-pox in February of last year. Work suspended for seven weeks. The house disinfected to the satisfaction of the local inspector.
66	5	46	no	—	—	yes	10 -	no	"	
54	6	40	no	—	—	no	—	no	"	
54	6	40	no	—	—	no	—	no	"	
64	8	40	no	—	—	yes	2 6	-	clean but untidy.	
64	7	40	no	—	—	yes	1 6	-	"	{ One machinist between the two.
56	10	40	no	—	—	yes	5 -	no	Excellent.	
60	3	40	no	—	—	yes	5 -	no	Good	
60	7	40	no	—	—	yes	5 -	no	"	
58	7	40	yes	1 4 to 1 6	—	no	—	no	"	
44	5	30	no	—	—	no	—	no	Excellent.	
57	6	40	no	—	no	no	—	no	"	
50	4	38	no	—	—	no	—	no	"	
60	5	40	no	—	—	no	—	no	"	
60	5	40	{ not in Sheffield. }	—	—	no	—	no	"	
58	8	42	no	—	—	no	—	no	"	
65	3	40	no	—	—	yes	2 -	no	Good.	
60	4	37	no	—	—	yes	4 -	no	"	
58	8	42	no	—	—	yes	9 -	no	Excellent.	
60	8	38	no	—	—	yes	3 -	no	Good.	
60	25 s. per week.	30	no	—	—	yes	5 -	no	Excellent.	
60	50 s. per week.	48	no	—	—	—	—	no	Good	A case of small-pox in January 1888. Work suspended for six weeks. House disinfected to the satisfaction of the local inspector.

* Stock is work offered between the end of October and the commencement of March, excepting winter trade, which does not last long. My inquiries show that only Mr. Whitworth has induced out-workers to take it.

FEBRUARY 1889.

What are your Working Hours per Week?	How many Garments can you make in a full Week without working Overtime?	How many Weeks are you employed in a Year?	Do you Work on Stock Orders?	What is the Cost per Week of Materials other than Machine Sewings?	What is the Cost per Week of Rent, Gas, and Coal?	Do you employ a Machinist or an Apprentice?	How much do you Pay for this Labour per Week?	Have you ever had Infection in the House?	Sanitary Conditions.	REMARKS.
54	17	44	no	<i>s. d.</i> —	<i>s. d.</i> 5 -	yes	<i>s. d.</i> 16 6	no	Excellent.	Left. Left.
66	4	38	no	3 -	2 4	no	—	no	Fair.	
66	4	38	no	3 -	2 4	no	—	no	Good.	
60	4	44	no	—	—	no	—	—	—	
60	6	44	no	—	—	no	—	—	—	
60	5	50	no	Private house.	—	yes	8 -	no	Good.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

APPENDIX E.

PAPER handed in by Mr. J. S. Moss, 23 May 1889.

FURTHER CLASSIFICATION of RELIEF, 31st March 1889.

FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE ONE YEAR AND UPWARDS.						FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE LESS THAN ONE YEAR.						Total Recipients.	Recipients' Wives.	Dependent Children.	Grand Total Relieved.
Married.	Single.	Widows.	Deserted.	Husband in Asylum.	TOTAL.	Married.	Single.	Widows.	Deserted.	Wife in Asylum.	TOTAL.				
113	16	37	20	—	186	17	143	4	3	—	167	353	130	612	1,095
226 Souls.						34 Souls.									
NATIVES.															
2	2	—	—	—	4	—	7	—	—	—	7	11	2	4	17
4 Souls.						— Souls.						364	132	616	1,112
CORRESPONDING ITEMS, 1887-88.															
148	11	38	25	2	224	26	170	1	14	1	212	436	174	811	1,421
296 Souls.						52 Souls.									
NATIVES.															
1	1	—	—	—	2	1	4	—	—	—	5	7	2	—	9
2 Souls.						2 Souls.						443	176	811	1,430

Decrease (as compared with 1888):

Cases	-	-	-	-	443	Individuals	-	-	-	1,430
					364					1,112
Decrease	-	-	-	-	79	Decrease	-	-	-	318

The item 1,112 individuals or souls is lower than any year since 1887, when the total stood at 979.

CLASSIFICATION of RECIPIENTS, 31st March 1889.

	Natives.	FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE ONE YEAR AND UPWARDS.				TOTAL.	FOREIGNERS RESIDENT HERE LESS THAN ONE YEAR.				TOTAL.	GRAND TOTAL.
		Germans.	Poles.	Dutch.	Other Countries.		Germans.	Poles.	Dutch.	Other Countries.		
1888-89	11	3	178	—	5*	186	39	110	3	15†	167	364
1887-88	7	5	213	1	5	224	40	148	2	22	212	443

	Recipients.				Times Relieved.		Average Number of Times Relieved.		Average Times Relief to each Recipient.	
1888-89	-	-	-	Residents - - 204	4,139		20·28		}	11·99
				Casuals - - 160	226		1·38			
1887-88	-	-	-	Residents - - 258	4,529		17·59		}	10·78
				Casuals - - 185	247		1·33			

DESERTED CASES.

	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Total.	Monthly Average.
1888-89	11	8	8	10	9	12	9	10	8	10	11	15	121	10·08
1887-88	15	13	11	11	13	18	17	11	16	15	19	16	175	14·58

* Five Roumanians.

† Nine Roumanians, three Turks, two French, and one Italian.

Decrease (as compared with 1888):

Residents of one year and upwards	{	224	Residents under one year	-	{	212
		186				167
Decrease	-	-	36	Decrease	-	45

ACTUAL NUMBER Relieved in certain Trades during the Years 1878-79 to 1887-88.

	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
Tailors - - - - -	99	84	64	67	72	74	92	79	73	74
Boot, Shoe, and Slipper Makers	12	15	12	12	14	12	14	35	31	22
Cap Makers - - - - -	9	4	1	1	5	5	3	4	4	14
Waterproofers - - - - -	8	8	7	2	4	11	14	33	23	20
Hawkers - - - - -	33	44	46	36	51	38	62	68	70	69
Glaziers - - - - -	82	91	75	69	66	70	62	61	53	58
TOTAL - - -	243	246	205	187	212	210	247	280	259	257

ACTUAL NUMBER Relieved during the Years 1878-79 to 1887-88.

YEARS.	Recipients.	Recipients' Wives.	Dependent Children.	TOTAL.
1878-79 - - -	365	194	676	1,235
1879-80 - - -	438	201	791	1,430
1880-81 - - -	395	160	686	1,241
1881-82 - - -	388	167	670	1,225
1882-83 - - -	420	160	633	1,213
1883-84 - - -	376	162	696	1,234
1884-85 - - -	422	170	699	1,291
1885-86 - - -	465	167	692	1,324
1886-87 - - -	474	179	810	1,463
1887-88 - - -	442	176	811	1,430

APPENDIX F.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *John Newhouse*, 30th May 1889.

RETURN OF WORKSHOPS IN THE BOROUGH OF LEEDS, 1st APRIL 1889.

JEWISH WORKSHOPS, including DWELLING HOUSES used as such.

TABLE, No. 1.

	Number.	Number of Workpeople.		Gross Cubic Space.	Number of Closets.	Condition of Closets.		Deficient Closet Accommodation.	Number of Firms with Drainage.		With no Drainage.	REMARKS.
		Males.	Females.			Clean.	Dirty.		Good.	Bad.		
Workshops	119	1,433	1,871	3,304	127	81	34	34	105	8	6	The defects here tabulated are abated or are in process of abatement.
Dwelling Houses	31	119	18	137	27	18	9	2	31	—	—	
TOTAL	150	1,552	1,889	3,441	154	99	43	36	136	8	6	

JEWISH WORKSHOPS, including DWELLING HOUSES used as such.—Sanitary Work carried out under supervision of Inspector specially set apart for this class of Workshop, 1st September 1888 to 1st April 1889.

TABLE, No. 2.

Number of Firms Noticed for Closet Accommodation.	Number of Closets Built.	Number of Notices Served for Dirty Rooms.	Number of Notices Served for Dirty Closets.	Number of Notices Served for Defective Ventilation.	Number of Notices Served for Water Supply and Drainage.	Number of Workshops Closed as unfit for the purpose.	Total Number of Abatements.	Number of Inspections.
14	72	32	58	6	10	5	197	252

TABLE No. 3.

Number of Districts.	Number of Workshops.	Number of Workpeople.		Closet Accommodation.				Condition of Closets.		Number of Firms with Defective Closet Accommodation.	Number of Firms with Drainage.		REMARKS.
		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	W.C.'s.	Trough C.	Pail C.	Privy C.	TOTAL.		Good.	Bad.	
14	411	20,110	10,267	30,377	436	264	415	472	1,749	84	153	84	The defects here tabulated have been abated or are in process of abatement.

S U M M A R Y.

TABLE No. 4.

				TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE.		
	Number of Workshops, &c.	Males.		Females.		TOTALS.
Jewish Workshops	119	1,433		1,871		3,304
Jewish Dwelling-houses	31	119		18		137
Other Workshops	411	20,110		10,267		30,377
TOTALS	561	21,662		12,156		33,818

EXPLANATION to the foregoing TABLES.

TABLE No. 1.—In this table is given the total number of Jewish workshops, also, the number of Jewish dwelling-houses used as workshops. The trades carried on are cigar and cigarette makers, boot and shoe makers, and tailors; in the majority of cases the tailors predominate. In many instances the workshops are well-built structures, with good light, ventilation, and accommodation; others are of an inferior order, and are principally confined to old buildings.

TABLE No. 2.—Our greatest difficulty is found in the supervision of what is termed dwelling-house workshop, which seem to be outside the pale of the Factory and Workshops Acts. In the majority of these houses it is often found that the work-room is also used as a sleeping-room, and in many cases overcrowded.

The Sanitary Committee, for the better regulation and supervision of Jewish houses and workshops, have appointed an inspector whose duties are the special and periodical inspection of premises occupied by the Jewish population, and this appointment has had exceedingly beneficial results, as evidenced by the gradual improvement in the sanitary conditions surrounding these people.

Table No. 2 gives a return of work done by the inspector from 1st September 1888 to 1st April

1889, and records number of new closets built, number of notices served for dirty rooms, dirty closets, defective drainage, defective ventilation, defective water supply and drainage, workshops closed as unfit for the purpose, and number of inspections.

TABLE No. 3.—This table gives a return of workshops (other than Jewish), and is a record of this particular supervision carried out by 14 district inspectors, whose duty it is to occasionally visit the workshops in their several districts, and report all cases of overcrowding, deficient closet accommodation, condition of closets, drainage, &c.

It is the intention of the Sanitary Committee to appoint, on an early date, five additional district inspectors, with a view to secure a more thorough supervision over the workshops, and greater efficiency in carrying out the sanitary requirements of the borough, thus increasing our departmental staff to 24 inspectors and one superintendent.

TABLE No. 4.—Gives the summary of workshops in the borough; also the number of male and female employees.

Yours, &c.
(signed) John Natchouse.

Sanitary Office, Municipal Buildings, Leeds, 1 April 1889.

RETURN of JEWISH DWELLING HOUSES used as WORKSHOPS, with Number of
FAMILY and EMPLOYEES in the Borough of *Leeds*, 25th May 1889.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	Family.	Employees.
D. Aber - - - -	36, Byron-street - -	4	4
B. Corb - - - -	49, Black Nile-street - -	8	—
J. Yules - - - -	54, Lands-lane - - -	6	8
M. Goldman - - - -	11, Lady-lane - - -	4	3
D. Zagofski - - - -	18, Cannon-street - -	6	2
D. Taylor - - - -	89, Templar-street - -	5	2
A. Baker - - - -	18, Lower Templar-street -	6	6
S. Leatherman - - - -	17, Cross Templar-street -	2	4
H. Abraham - - - -	7, Malt-street - - -	6	2
C. Jacobs - - - -	75, Hope-street - - -	3	2
T. Moses - - - -	26, Trafalgar - - -	7	5
M. Marks - - - -	53, Briggate - - -	4	3
A. Lewis - - - -	36, Byron-street - - -	7	7
R. Hyman - - - -	8, Byron-street - - -	6	2
S. Verenski - - - -	20, Vicar-lane - - -	5	7
M. Harris - - - -	51, Hope-street - - -	4	3
S. M'Kinnell - - - -	36, Albion-street - - -	6	8
C. Saperia - - - -	2, Prussia-street - - -	9	5
Messrs. Cohen and Pinker -	14, Lady-lane - - -	4	2
L. Benjamin - - - -	29, Cloth-street - - -	5	4
L. Cassandra - - - -	5, Mason-street - - -	3	2
R. Rosenberg - - - -	35, Myrtle-street - - -	4	1
M. Josephs - - - -	37, Myrtle-street - - -	5	2
J. Nathan - - - -	13, Myrtle-street - - -	6	3
F. Grossman - - - -	41, Gower-street - - -	4	4
D. Vine - - - -	43, Globe yard - - -	4	2
M. Bernstien - - - -	17, Merriion-street - - -	3	5
S. Deutchman - - - -	6, Brunswick-row - - -	2	3
J. Dolberg - - - -	89, Byron-street - - -	6	3
J. Yules - - - -	19, North-street - - -	5	6
M. Singer - - - -	49, Templar - - -	3	2

S U M M A R Y.

31 Dwelling-houses; 31 Families, 152 Persons: average	}	4	}	Total average	-	-	8
per house - - - - -							
31 Dwelling-houses; Workpeople, 112 Persons: average	}	3					
per house - - - - -							
Total number of Persons							264

APPENDIX G.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *John Newhouse*, 30th May 1889.

REPORT on the Sanitary Condition of the Tailors' Workshops, or so-called Sweating Establishments, within the Borough of *Leeds*, by *John Newhouse*, Superintendent, Sanitary Department, Leeds.

APPENDIX G.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *John Newhouse*, 30th May 1889.

REPORT on the Sanitary Condition of the Tailors' Workshops, or so-called Sweating Establishments, within the Borough of *Leeds*, by *John Newhouse*, Superintendent, Sanitary Department, Leeds.

REPORT ON TAILORS' WORKSHOPS.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

Sanitary Department, Leeds,
25 June 1888.

Gentlemen,

I RESPECTFULLY report that, in accordance with your instructions, I have visited and inspected the tailors' workshops, or alleged sweating establishments, within the borough. I begun my inspection on Tuesday, June 12th, and completed it on the 15th. There are 46 of these workshops, exclusive of the larger factories, order workshops, and dwelling-houses.

The first place named in the extract from the "*Lancet*" is that of Mr. Morris Goodman, situate in Rockingham-street (No. 8 on Table appended). It is a good building and suitable for the purpose. The entrance is in the Archway, and the workrooms on the floor above are reached by a staircase. The workrooms are parallel with each other. They are well lighted and well ventilated. The walls and floors were clean, and the manager stated they were in the same condition as when visited by the reporter to the "*Lancet*." The larger room measured 17,940 cubic feet, and the other room measured 4,620 cubic feet. The total measurement of the two rooms is 22,560 cubic feet, being an average of 282 cubic feet per head. The space allowed by the Act is 250 cubic feet per head. I could find no fault with these workrooms, but I cannot say the same of the out-buildings, which are situate in the yard at the back. There are two water-closets for the females at one end of the yard, which were clean and in good order. At the other end of the yard are four trough closets for the use of Mr. Goodman's workmen, and also for men and women from other workshops. The whole of these closets were in a very filthy state. I find there had been some neglect in cleansing them, in consequence of the yard gate having been locked. Immediately facing the far closet is a urinal in a very dirty state, and without any screen. The ash-pit is a dry sunken one, situated on the way to the closets. This ash-pit, and another one in a yard near it, were full, and about a load of ashes and rubbish laid outside, but the men came and emptied them while I was there.

The second place named (so far as I can learn) is a room in a building in Back Rockingham-street (No. 2 on Table), occupied by Mr. Archer Simon, who employs 30 males and 22 females, total 52 (extract states 80). The measurement of the room is 36,800 cubic feet, or 707 cubic feet for each person. The room and staircase were dirty, and the room has no ventilation except the windows. The two water-closets were clean, but the accommodation is not sufficient.

The third place mentioned requires no comment (No. 24 on Table).

The fourth place mentioned (No. 18 on Table) is that of Mr. Solomon Bodlander, situate in the Ship Inn Yard, Lands-lane. Mr. Bodlander occupies two rooms. One room measures 7,191 cubic feet, with 18 female and four male workers, being 326 cubic feet per head. The second room measures 3,825 cubic feet, with 10 hands, being 382 cubic feet for each. Both rooms were clean, with through ventilation, but the walls and steps of the staircase were dirty. There are two water-closets, which were clean, but there is only one door to the two closets. The accommodation for the sexes is separate: those for the females are on one landing, and those for the males on the landing above.

The fifth place mentioned is the Millgarth Mills, in Dyer-street (35 to 40 on Table), opposite the Model Lodging House, but not as stated only divided by the street, but separated from the lodging house by a large yard as well as the street, the distance between the two buildings being about 119 feet. These mills have been closed for some time, and were occupied again within the last six months. The building on the west side of the yard is in good condition and is occupied by Messrs. Sunderland and Wilton, wholesale clothiers. This part of the premises is well drained, has good water-closet accommodation for each sex, is clean and well ventilated. The east and south sides are occupied

occupied as tailors' workshops by Mr. A. Bodlander, and four others. In this part of the building are the privies named in the "Lancet." They are connected to a brick shaft, three feet square, open at the top and a sump at the bottom. The whole of the privies were clean, and some of them had ventilators conducting to the outside of the building. Shortly after these premises were occupied by the above-named people, a notice was given by your Committee to the owners to convert the privies into water-closets. The agents waited upon me and requested me to suspend proceedings, stating they were negotiating with the Markets Committee for the sale of the property to that Committee for the extension of the market, and in the event of their coming to an agreement the property would be pulled down.

I agreed to suspend the notice for a short time, and in the meantime a firm of dry-salters purchased the property, and the occupiers have been served with notice to quit.

The sixth place mentioned (No. 34 on the Table), is Lady Bridge Mills, Millgarth-street.

A room in one of the buildings in the mill yard is occupied as a tailors' workshop by Mr. A. Simmonds. The room is a good one, well ventilated and clean, measuring 17,808 cubic feet, with 40 female and four male workers, averaging 404 cubic feet per head. The yard is a large one, well paved and drained, and has several other good workshops in it, all, with the exception of the building with the room in it occupied by Mr. Simmonds, are provided with good water-closets. At the end of the yard nearest the Model Lodging House (but separated from it by a cart road 11 feet wide), is a block of two privies with an open ash-pit 11 feet 3 inches long. One of these privies is for the use of Mr. Simmonds and his 44 workpeople. The privies and ash-pit have the appearance of recent construction, but I am of opinion that they have been built without the sanction of the Building Clauses or your Committee.

The seventh place mentioned is in Hope-street, Leylands (41 to 47 on Table), and is known as Hope-street Mills.

The top floor of 28, Hope-street is occupied by Mr. Raphael Handwarger and 44 workpeople; measurement, 22,350 cubic feet, or 507 cubic feet per head. The room was fairly clean, and has through ventilation. The building is a good one and suitable for the purpose. There are three water-closets on the landing. In one, the flush pipe was out of order, and the seats and floors of the whole were very dirty and covered with soil. A block of privies in the back yard were in a similar condition. I at once gave notice to the occupiers to cleanse these closets, and instructed the district inspector to regularly visit and report on their condition.

Mr. Jacob Fraiss, with 18 workpeople, occupies a room on the second floor. The room is a good one with through ventilation, and measures 8,281 feet, or 460 cubic feet per head. The floor was clean, but the walls were not so clean. The closet, as usual with these people, was dirty, the seat and floor being covered with filth.

Mr. Henry Moses, with 80 workpeople, occupies a room on the first floor of 24, Hope-street, measuring 37,087 cubic feet, or 463 cubic feet per head. The room is well ventilated and the floor was clean, but the walls were dirty. The privies in the back yard were dirty, floors and seats covered. There is a deficiency in the closet accommodation.

A room on the second floor was occupied by Mr. Benjamin Cohen and 50 workpeople. The room measures 28,830 cubic feet, or 576 cubic feet per head. The floor was clean, but the walls were only fairly clean. It is well ventilated. The water closet and privy were both dirty, the seats and floors covered, as usual, and there is a deficiency in the accommodation.

Mr. Simon Finberg, with 22 workpeople, occupies a room also on the second floor, measuring 10,494 cubic feet, or 477 cubic feet per head. The room is a good one, well ventilated and clean. The closets used are those above named.

At 22, Hope-street, Mr. Philip Levi occupies one room. There are 17 workpeople, and the room measures 10,948 cubic feet, or 644 cubic feet per head. The room is a good one, well ventilated and clean. There is one water-closet, clean, and in good order. The entrance to the closet is in the room.

Two other rooms in this building are occupied by Mr. Marks Rubinstein.

No. 1 room had 19 workpeople in it, and measured 22,680 cubic feet, or 1,193 cubic feet per head. The walls and floor were clean. The water-closet is in the room. It was clean and in good order. The drainage is also good.

No. 2 room had 6 workers in it, and measured 3,060 cubic feet, or 510 cubic feet per head. It was clean, but not sufficiently ventilated.

The eighth place mentioned (No. 28 to 33 on the Table) is part of the old buildings known as the Old Workhouse Yard.

The yard is entered by an archway in Lady-lane. There is also an entrance to some of the workrooms by a doorway at No. 3, in the lane. One of the rooms in this building

is occupied by Mr. Goldberg, with 16 workpeople, male and female. Cubic measurement, 3,276 feet, or 204 cubic feet per head. The second room is occupied by Mr. Henry Niman, with 24 workpeople, male and female. Measurement, 7,440 cubic feet, or 310 cubic feet per head. There are two staircases leading to these rooms; both were dirty and dangerous. A small sink has been fixed in one corner of the staircase, from the yard. The sink was overflowing. The room occupied by Mr. Goldberg has through ventilation, but the walls and floor were black with dust and dirt. The walls and floor of the room occupied by Mr. Niman were fairly clean. Mr. Louis Stone, with 14 workpeople, occupies another room, access to which is gained by passing through two other old, dirty, dilapidated, and unoccupied rooms. The walls and floor of the room occupied by Mr. Stone were very dirty. Measurement, 4,337 cubic feet, or 309 cubic feet per head.

Across the yard is another old building. Mr. Goldstone Conofsky, with 18 workpeople, occupies one room. Measurement, 6,845 cubic feet, or 380 cubic feet per head. The walls and floor were fairly clean. Mr. Archer Lemon, with 50 workpeople, occupied two rooms above, one measuring 11,286 cubic feet, or 225 cubic feet per head. The other room, with one man working in it, measured 567 cubic feet. Another room was occupied by Mr. Herman Friends, with 31 workpeople. This room was clean, and had through ventilation, the measurement was 8,032 cubic feet, or 259 cubic feet per head.

The whole of these rooms and buildings are in a dilapidated condition, and entirely unfit for business or other purposes. There is no adequate closet accommodation, and with the exception of the trough water-closets, which are at the upper part of the yard, and are clean and in good order, there are none fit for use. In a corner at the lower end of the yard are five pail privies, the seats, floors, and passage covered with soil and urine, this being the usual condition of closets used by the lower class of Jews. There is an exhaust steam pipe near the pail closets, and the warm water from it was running among the deposits.

Notice has been served upon the owner to pull down these privies, and provide 11 trough water-closets for the use of these people.

I would here state that it is not true to say that your Committee or your officials make any distinction in their treatment of the English and the Jews.

The ninth place mentioned is a building in North-court, North-street, where three rooms on the first floor are occupied by tailors (Nos. 48, 49, and 50 on Table). Messrs. Goldstein and Captin occupy two rooms only partly divided from each other. One room had 15 workers in it, and measured 3,289 cubic feet, or 219 cubic feet per head. The other had seven workers in it, and measured 2,640 cubic feet, or 377 cubic feet per head. Both rooms were dirty and without ventilation. There was one water-closet for both sexes in one room, which was very dirty, with no ventilation, and the seat broken.

Mr. Harris Rothborn occupied one large room on the same floor. The room is a good one, well lighted and clean, but not ventilated; it measures 16,940 cubic feet, with 40 workers in it, or 423 cubic feet per head. There was a door in the room opening to two water-closets, one for males and one for females. These closets had no other door to screen the persons using them from each other. The closets were clean, but without ventilation.

On the other side of the court is an old building; the lower part is occupied by a blacksmith, and the room above by a tailor named Mr. Reuben Hyman. Access to this room is gained by an old rickety ladder fixed outside. The room was very dirty, without ventilation, and in a ruinous condition. Ten people, male and female, were working in it. The room measures 3,371 cubic feet, or 327 cubic feet per head. Near the ladder is a block of offensive privies and ashpits, one of the privies being for the use of the occupants of the tailors' workshop.

I have visited 64 places in all, 46 of them being the so-called sweating shops, including one dwelling-house, the remainder being wholesale establishments and private workshops.

When any room or building is taken for a tailor's workshop, no notice is given by the owner or any other person to the sanitary authority that the building, or any portion thereof, is about to be used for this purpose; as in the majority of cases they come under "The Factory and Workshops Act, 1878" (44 out of 46 of these places come under this head), but it is a very rare occurrence for one of these places to be opened without your inspectors finding it out and inspecting the sanitary condition of the premises. When the building or room is first occupied it is clean, and owing to the small number of workers employed to begin with, the closet accommodation is generally found to be sufficient, and where a deficiency is found a notice is served upon the owner to provide one water-closet for every 20 persons employed, with separate accommodation in some other part of the building for females. When this notice has been complied with, the premises are only occasionally visited by your inspectors, owing to the numerous claims upon their time, and to the fact that the workshops are under the factory inspectors.

The following is a copy of Section 4 of the Act:—

“FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1878.”—Section 4, part 1, ch. 16.

“Where it appears to an inspector under this Act that any act, neglect, or default in relation to any drain, water-closet, earth-closet, privy, ashpit, water-supply nuisance, or other matter, in a factory or workshop, is punishable or remediable under the law relating to public health, but not under this Act, that inspector shall give notice in writing of such act, neglect, or default to the sanitary authority in whose district the factory or workshop is situate, and it shall be the duty of the sanitary authority to make such inquiry into the subject of the notice, and take such action thereon, as to that authority may seem proper for the purpose of enforcing the law. An inspector under this Act may, for the purposes of this section, take with him into a factory or workshop a medical officer of health, inspector of nuisances, or other officer of the sanitary authority.”

According to this section of the Act, it is the duty of the factory inspector to report to your Committee all insanitary condition of the places named, but to my knowledge no complaint has been made of any sanitary defects on any of the above-named premises, with one exception, and that exception is the Old Workhouse-yard in Lady-lane. On the first or second day of the present month Captain May came to the office and reported to me the insanitary condition of those premises. I at once sent an inspector to the place, and he made his report to me. I embodied that report in the schedule submitted to your Committee on Monday the 11th, and on the following day, the 12th, a notice was served upon the owner, as stated in a previous part of this report.

In justice to Mr. Rickards, I must say that he has many times made complaints to your Committee of the insanitary condition of various works within the borough, other than those named in this report. The insanitary condition of the premises caused by the deficiency in the closet accommodation is owing to the fact that the persons engaged in this trade generally begin in a small way, with few hands, the closet accommodation at the time being sufficient. As their business increases more hands are employed, but no corresponding increase is made in the number of closets, as your Committee remain ignorant of the altered circumstances of the case, but, however many closets are provided, the difficulty remains how to make these people use them properly, and keep them clean, for they are so ignorant and degraded, that they will stand and deposit on the floor and seats, having a decided objection to sit on the seats and deposit in the basin.

Much has been done by your Committee and the Jewish Board of Guardians in the endeavour to improve the habits and surroundings of these people. Notices in English and Hebrew have been served upon them personally, and also posted in the quarters occupied by them, and men have been specially appointed to daily cleanse the streets, but it appears that something more remains to be done; more efficient supervision is requisite for both the dwellings and workshops occupied by these people, and I would respectfully suggest that one additional inspector should be appointed by your Committee, to daily inspect the Jews' dwellings, and that some more satisfactory arrangement be made with the authorities having the control of the factories and workshops.

In conclusion, I have to report that the whole of the factories and workshops within the borough are now being inspected, and I therefore submit a schedule of nuisances found in those places, and respectfully apply for your authority to serve notices on the persons named in that schedule, and, in case of non-compliance with those notices, that I be authorised to take proceedings.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *John Newhouse.*

TABLE referred to in the foregoing REPORT.

No.	NAMES AND ADDRESS OF OCCUPIERS.	Situation.	Clean or Dirty.	Ventilation.	Drainage.	Closet Accommodation.	Sex.		Total Number of Persons Employed.	Cubic Space.	Average per Head of Persons Employed.	REMARKS.
							Males.	Females.				
1	Simpson and Blackburn, Tailors -	Back Rockingham-street	Clean	Windows only	Good	Deficient	6	40	46	14,400	313	One trough w.c., outside, clean and in good order.
2	Archib Simon, Tailor -	- - ditto -	Dirty	ditto	ditto	2 w.c.'s	30	22	52	36,800	707	Two w.c.'s on landing, clean and in good order.
3	Thomas Woodward -	- - ditto -	Walls dirty; floor clean.	Fairly good	ditto	1 t.w.c.	2	14	16	4,376	273	Master cap maker, closet clean.
4	Jos. B. Collins, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	Windows only	Defective	ditto	3	17	20	4,851	242	Closet clean and in good order.
5	Moses Cohen -	- - ditto -	Clean	ditto	Good	ditto	4	4	8	8,272	1,034	Waterproof coat maker; closet fairly clean.
6	David Adelleston, Shoemaker	- - ditto -	ditto	Good	ditto	ditto	16	-	16	6,120	382	Floor and seat of closet in yard covered with soil, asphalt fall and overflowing, emptied while there.
	Ditto - - ditto -	- - ditto -	Dirty	-	ditto	Dirty	7	-	7	3,744	534	Closets very dirty.
7	Michael Prieze, Tailor -	16, Back Rockingham-street.	ditto	Good	-	2 w.c.'s	12	12	24	10,008	419	Entrance good and clean; urinal bad, position wrong, and dirty.
8	Morris Goodman, Tailor -	Back Rockingham-street	Clean	ditto	Good	ditto	35	45	80	22,560	282	Entrance good, closet clean.
	Ditto - - ditto -	- - ditto -	ditto	ditto	ditto	1 t.w.c.		-	-	-	-	Closets clean.
9	John Braithwaite, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	Windows only	ditto	ditto	6	30	36	10,736	298	Soil pipe leaky.
10	Myer Litman, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	Windows	ditto	2 w.c.'s	12	18	30	12,996	433	Staircase dark and dirty.
11	Jacob Cohen, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	ditto	Defective	ditto	10	12	22	6,642	301	Ditto - ditto.
12	Abraham Harris, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	Windows open	Good	ditto	20	25	45	13,592	300	Closets dirty, staircase dark and dirty.
13	Solomon Budlander, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	-	Good	ditto	8	18	26	7,614	292	-
14	Marks Harrison, Tailor -	- - ditto -	Fairly clean	Good	Good	ditto	12	20	32	12,474	389	-
15	Morris Kemmeltor, Tailor -	Ship Inn-yard	-	-	None	1 w.c.	22	9	31	8,883	286	-
16	Simon Joseph, Tailor -	- - ditto -	Very clean	Window	Defective	ditto	8	17	25	5,481	219	Arrangement bad, two w.c.'s in one.
17	Samuel Avenberg, Tailor -	- - ditto -	Clean	Through	ditto	2 w.c.'s	3	20	23	7,191	312	Staircase dirty, two w.c.'s in one.
18	Solomon Budlander, Tailor -	- - ditto -	ditto	ditto	-	ditto	4	18	22	7,191	326	-
	Ditto - - ditto -	- - ditto -	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3,825	382	Staircase dangerous, unfit for the purpose (Works for self.)
19	Richard Smith, Tailor -	46, Lands-lane	Dirty	-	-	1 t.w.c.	-	-	3	4,050	1,350	Order workshop.
20	John Quale, Tailor -	Angel-yard	ditto	Defective	None	ditto	4	1	5	3,135	627	Staircase dirty.
21	Simon Goldman, Tailor -	William the IV. Yard	Dirty walls; floor clean.	-	Good	3 t.w.c.'s	7	3	10	4,245	424	Order workshop, staircase dark, w.c. in cellar for family and work-people.
22	Isaac Yule, Tailor -	54, Lands-lane	Dirty	-	-	1 w.c.	5	3	8	2,640	330	Suitable.
23	Davis Joseph, Tailor -	6, Brunswick-terrace	Clean	Good	Good	-	30	30	60	17,290	288	Ditto.
24	Benjamin Joseph, Tailor -	Grove House-lane	ditto	ditto	ditto	3 w.c.'s	15	12	27	12,100	448	Ditto.
	Ditto - - ditto -	- - ditto -	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	21	13	34	27,945	821	Ditto.
25	Hyman White, Tailor -	3, Jacob street	ditto	Windows only	ditto	1 w.c.	12	11	23	6,859	298	Ditto.
26	Jacob Yules, Tailor -	19, North-street	ditto	-	ditto	2 w.c.'s	3	3	6	1,989	331	Order shop.
27	Hyman Wolfe, Tailor -	Rockley Hall-yard	Dirty	Windows	ditto	ditto	3	38	41	8,888	216	Suitable.
	Ditto - - ditto -	- - ditto -	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	4	1	5	3,888	777	-

28	Isadon Goldberg, Tailor	-	-	-	3, Lady-lano	-	-	ditto	-	Pail Closet	12	4	16	3,276	204	Staircase very dirty, pail closets in yard foul, building unfit.
29	Henry Neiman, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Fairly clean	Good	1 t.w.c.	12	12	24	7,440	310	Trough closet clean.
30	Louis Stone, Tailor	-	-	-	Old Workhouse-yard	-	-	Dirty	-	-	9	5	14	4,337	309	Staircase bad, building unfit.
31	Goldstein Ciofolski, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Fairly clean	-	Pails	9	9	18	6,845	380	Stairs dirty, pail closets foul, building unfit.
32	Archie Lemon, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Clean	-	-	20	30	50	11,286	225	Old building, unfit.
33	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	1	1	567	567	Ditto - ditto.
34	Hermann Friend, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	Good	Pails	9	22	31	8,032	259	Good building, large asphalt in yard, one privy.
35	Abraham Simmonds, Tailor	-	-	-	Lady Bridge Mill-yard	-	-	ditto	ditto	1 privy	4	40	44	17,808	404	Good building, clean, accommodation good.
36	Sunderland and Wilton, Tailors	-	-	-	Millgarth Mills, Dyer-street.	-	-	ditto	ditto	-	6	22	28	14,040	501	Good building, privies objectionable.
37	Abraham Bodlander, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	-	2 privies	27	38	65	33,453	514	Ditto - ditto.
38	Morris Cohen, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	-	ditto	23	25	48	19,206	400	Ditto - ditto.
39	Nathan Saffer, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Fairly clean	Fairly good	ditto	31	30	61	31,419	515	Ditto - ditto.
40	David Fritz, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Clean	Through	ditto	23	23	46	31,635	687	Ditto - ditto.
41	L. Sadousky and A. Freeman, Tailors.	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	40	31,350	783	Not working.
42	Raphael Handwarger, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Fairly clean	Through	2 w.c.'s	24	20	44	22,350	507	Flush pipe defective, closets dirty.
43	Jacob Fraiz, Tailor	-	-	-	28, Hope-street	-	-	ditto	ditto	1 w.c.	6	12	18	8,281	460	Good building, closets very dirty.
44	Hy. Moses, Tailor	-	-	-	24, Hope-street	-	-	Clean	ditto	2 privies	50	30	80	37,087	463	Ditto - ditto.
45	Benj'm. Cohen, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Fairly clean	ditto	1 w.c., 1 privy	25	12	50	28,830	576	Ditto - ditto.
46	Simon Finburg, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Clean	Pivot windows	ditto	10	12	22	10,494	477	Ditto - ditto.
47	Philip Levi, Tailor	-	-	-	22, Hope-street	-	-	Not clean	Through	1 w.c.	8	9	17	10,948	644	Good building, closets clean.
48	Marks Rubenstein, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Clean	Windows only	ditto	9	10	19	22,680	1,193	Ditto - ditto.
49	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	-	-	6	6	3,060	510	One w.c. in room for both sexes, seat broken, dirty.
50	Goldstein and Caplin, Tailors	-	-	-	2, North-court	-	-	Not clean	None	1 w.c.	6	9	15	3,289	219	Two w.c.'s, clean, one door for two closets, arrangement bad.
51	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	-	ditto	-	2	5	7	2,640	377	Building unfit, ladder dangerous.
52	Harris Rothborn, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Clean	Windows only	2 w.c.'s	20	20	40	16,940	423	Dwelling-house dirty, unfit for the business.
53	Reuben Hymen, Tailor	-	-	-	10, North-court	-	-	Dirty	None	1 privy	5	5	10	3,371	327	Good room for business, w.c. in room clean.
54	Joseph Makofsky, Tailor	-	-	-	23, Templar-street	-	-	ditto	Windows only	1 w.c.	1	6	7	1,404	200	Ditto - ditto.
55	Harris Goldstein, Tailor	-	-	-	19, Upper Fontaine-street.	-	-	Clean	Windows	w.c.	2	8	10	4,806	480	Ladies' mantles only, suitable for business, well lighted, all English.
56	Jonathan Stokes, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	Good	1 w.c.	3	17	20	8,298	424	Suitable, clean, accommodation good.
57	Harry Bernstein, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	12	16	28	13,847	494	Ditto - ditto.
58	Hotham and Whiting, Tailors	-	-	-	17, Upper Fontaine-street	-	-	ditto	Windows	ditto	-	32	34	8,683	434	Wholesale manufacturer.
59	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	Good	ditto	2	32	34	10,981	322	Ditto - ditto.
60	David Harrison, Tailor	-	-	-	6, Alice-court, Wade-lane	-	-	ditto	Through	1 t.w.c.	14	8	22	7,770	353	Ditto - ditto.
61	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	-	7	7	1,177	108	Ditto - ditto.
62	Charles Braithwaite, Tailor	-	-	-	Bedford Buildings	-	-	ditto	ditto	1 w.c.	5	30	35	12,074	344	Ditto - ditto.
63	Archie Levi, Tailor	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Dirty	ditto	t.w.c.'s	14	20	34	14,674	491	Ditto - ditto.
64	G. Tomlinson and Son, Tailors	-	-	-	19, Bond-street	-	-	Clean	Good	w.c.	-	10	10	9,139	913	Ditto - ditto.
65	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	-	8	8	5,975	746	Ditto - ditto.
66	Lister & Co., Tailors	-	-	-	5, Park-place	-	-	ditto	ditto	2 privies	6	24	39	8,344	278	Ditto - ditto.
67	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	-	9	9	3,714	412	Ditto - ditto.
68	Albrecht and Albrecht, Tailors	-	-	-	29, York-place	-	-	ditto	ditto	1 w.c.	1	95	96	32,670	339	Ditto - ditto.
69	Schofield and Parkinson, Tailors	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	Through	2 w.c.'s	5	70	75	23,150	308	Ditto - ditto.
70	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	21, York-place	-	-	ditto	Fair	1 w.c.	4	21	25	12,416	456	Ditto - ditto.
71	Ditto - ditto	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	ditto	ditto	ditto	1	26	37	12,025	325	Ditto - ditto.
72	Paddison & Co., Tailors	-	-	-	- ditto	-	-	Not clean	-	2 w.c.'s	7	25	32	10,008	312	Ditto - ditto.

APPENDIX H.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Isidor Frankenburg*, 31st May 1889.

FEMALE GARMENT MAKERS.

	MAY					MAY			
	3rd.	10th.	17th.	24th.		3rd.	10th.	17th.	24th.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
L. Jones - - -	11 11½	14 -½	11 11	13 10	M. Rooke - - -	17 -	15 4	12 6	18 5½
M. A. Monks - -	12 -½	13 5	13 10	12 1	E. Pearson - - -	16 5	16 2	14 5	17 -½
E. Buckley - - -	10 5½	9 9	10 6	10 6½	J. Young - - -	11 4	9 2	13 10½	11 2½
M. E. Sanders - -	9 10	11 1	9 7½	13 7	A. Rowark - - -	10 1	11 1	11 1½	13 5
E. Burton - - -	11 8	13 3	8 6½	11 5½	C. Pearson - - -	16 5	13 6½	11 4½	15 6
M. Rogerson - -	18 3	11 4	11 6	11 1½	L. Arthur - - -	10 10	11 9½	10 8½	13 9½
E. Flanly - - -	20 -	21 2	12 9½	23 6	A. Long - - -	14 10	12 3	11 1½	13 5
E. Ardwick - - -	14 6	10 11½	15 2½	15 3½	L. Hall - - -	18 2	14 11	14 10½	15 6½
J. Septon - - -	12 6	12 9	14 2	15 10	R. Yates - - -	16 2	15 1	12 11	18 10
E. Kinsey - - -	19 8	20 -	14 8½	23 1	M. Williams - -	14 4	13 -	11 3	14 10½
E. Allen - - -	12 11½	13 11	14 4½	13 11½	E. Saunders - -	10 -	13 7	11 6	15 8½
M. Massey - - -	12 11½	14 -½	14 4½	13 11½	R. Hyde - - -	17 7	15 11½	15 9½	17 4
E. Fowls - - -	13 1	7 9	9 5½	10 2	F. Caine - - -	9 4½	12 4½	13 6	13 5
M. Shannon - - -	13 7½	12 11	11 11	15 1	B. Eccleston - -	14 11	16 3	13 2	19 11
H. Bennett - - -	15 6	12 6	13 7½	14 4½	E. Finn - - -	17 4	16 11½	13 1½	16 7
S. E. Smith - - -	14 10½	12 8½	11 2½	15 1½	E. Lyons - - -	9 2	4 6½	11 5½	13 5
S. Dixon - - -	14 6	14 6½	11 7½	14 6	J. Cash - - -	18 -	16 3½	12 6½	14 7
E. Riley - - -	15 2	13 3	11 9	15 2	E. Lomas - - -	14 1	11 10	9 11	16 3½
M. J. Gradwell - -	10 6	10 1½	13 5½	11 -	M. Stewart - - -	12 8	10 10½	10 6	13 8
S. Parr - - -	-	17 10	14 10	16 10	M. Campbell - -	14 6½	10 11½	15 1½	13 2½
E. Arrowsmith - -	18 1	16 2½	14 10	16 3	E. Hobson - - -	13 10	12 7	10 5½	12 4½
A. Boardman - - -	16 1	14 3½	13 4½	16 4	S. Gordon - - -	17 6	13 8½	11 8	15 10
E. A. Humphreys - -	14 -½	16 10½	12 1	19 1	C. Murray - - -	11 3	11 9	12 -	9 4
M. Openshaw - - -	16 9	15 3½	9 11	17 4	T. Johnstone - -	13 10	19 8	14 6	10 8
S. A. Blevin - - -	17 4	15 -½	10 7½	16 2	M. Pollitt - - -	13 9	17 5	13 6	13 -

APPENDIX I.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *Arthur Goodwyn*, 11th July 1889.

REPORT of the Sanitary Committee of the Board of Guardians for the Relief of the JEWISH POOR, 1888.

FROM the figures appended it will be seen that the work performed under the direction of this Committee has somewhat increased during the past year, while the results obtained have on the whole, regard being had to the grave difficulties with which the Committee has to contend, been fairly satisfactory. In 1887 the total number of the visits paid by Mr. Goodwyn, the inspector, to 1,315 houses occupied by the Jewish poor was 3,987; in 1888 the number of these visits was 4,167, and the number of houses visited 1,468, of which 842 (visited on 2,283 distinct occasions) were in Whitechapel, 185 (visited on 609 occasions) in Mile End, 325 (visited on 950 occasions) in St. George's-in-the-East, and 116 (visited on 325 occasions) in Bethnal Green.

In a large proportion of these houses the inspector discovered the presence of sanitary defects of a kind sufficiently grave to be certain of recognition by the local authorities concerned, as matters proper to be dealt with by them.

DISTRICT.	Number of Houses Visited.	Number of Houses found up to standard of Local Authority.	Number of Houses Defective, and below standard of Local Authority.
Whitechapel - - - - -	842	332	510
Mile End - - - - -	185	61	124
St. George's-in-the-East - - - - -	325	97	228
Bethnal Green - - - - -	116	30	86
TOTAL - - - - -	1,468	520	948

Among the defects included in the foregoing table there were no fewer than 69 cases in which the drains of houses were found to be choked; in one case (in St. George's-in-the-East) a drain was found to have been in a blocked condition for three weeks previous to the visit of Mr. Goodwyn, and it was only after the lapse of six more weeks that the remedy of this serious nuisance was obtained; during the whole of these nine weeks the yard of the house (a deep basement area) was flooded with sewage which at times penetrated into the house, the level of the basement floor being below the surface of the yard. There were also 65 cases of water-closets choked by soil, &c.

The removal of the sanitary defects which come under the notice of the Committee can only be ensured by the exercise of great vigilance. It is in most cases necessary for the inspector to make repeated visits at short intervals to the same house, and only after the lapse of a considerable time, during which the pressure of the Committee is firmly maintained, is the inspector able to report that the necessary repairs have at length been executed. Even where a house is found in a fairly sanitary condition upon the inspector's first visit, it is frequently requisite for him to keep an eye upon it in order to prevent its falling into disrepair. The number of visits to each house found to be necessary in each district is shewn by the subjoined table.

DISTRICT.	Number of Times Visited.															
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
Whitechapel - - -	311	183	147	75	49	26	19	10	8	2	4	5	-	1	1	1
Mile End - - -	69	30	29	20	7	4	9	1	6	3	-	1	1	2	2	1
St. George's-in-the-East -	106	60	59	38	29	15	3	9	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-
Bethnal Green - -	33	21	27	20	7	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - -	519	294	262	155	92	49	33	22	15	6	6	7	1	4	3	2

Comparing these figures with those of last year, it will be found that, while in 1887 "it was necessary to pay five or more visits to as many as half of all the houses in Bethnal Green which Mr. Goodwyn inspected," that necessity arose in 1888 in regard to only about one house in eight. In fact, Bethnal Green now appears at the head of the list as the district in which the smallest amount of repetition in the visits of our inspector was required; for in Whitechapel he paid five or more visits to about one house in six (the same proportion as in 1887), and in St. George's and Mile End (in which, in 1887, this proportion was one in four) the figures for 1888 show the ratio to have been one in five. It is beyond question that, although, owing perhaps to the great age of the part of Bethnal Green with which this Committee has had to deal, nearly 75 per cent. of all the houses visited by Mr. Goodwyn were (as shown by the figures in the first table) found by him to be in an insanitary condition, yet the local authority of that district is now much more prompt in attending to the complaints made by this Committee than was formerly the case, and this fact is noted with satisfaction.

The net results of the year's work in regard to the remedy of sanitary defects is shown below :—

OLD CASES.

DISTRICT.	Number of Houses Defective on 1st January 1888.	Remedied wholly between 1st January 1888 and 31st December 1888.	Remedied partially between 1st January 1888 and 31st December 1888.
Whitechapel - - - - -	177	94	57
Mile End - - - - -	44	14	25
St. George's-in-the-East - - - - -	97	69	21
Bethnal Green - - - - -	18	14	2
TOTAL - - - - -	336	191	105

NEW CASES.

DISTRICT.	Number of cases in which Houses were found Defective between 1st January 1888 and 31st December 1888.	Number of these cases in which the Defects were wholly remedied between 1st January 1888 and 31st December 1888.	Number of these cases in which the Defects were partially remedied between 1st January 1888 and 31st December 1888.
Whitechapel - - - - -	347	194	79
Mile End - - - - -	82	18	51
St. George's-in-the-East - - - - -	132	80	35
Bethnal Green - - - - -	70	58	7
TOTAL - - - - -	631	350	172

It is to be observed that in many instances the repairs executed are carried out in such an imperfect manner that within a short time after their completion the houses are again found to be in an insanitary condition, and therefore come again into our books as "new cases." Thus, the 347 new cases mentioned in the last table as having been found defective in Whitechapel on visits paid subsequently to 1st January 1888, refer to 333 different houses, of which 10, after being repaired, were found defective on a subsequent visit, and two were twice reported as remedied, but yet were on a later occasion discovered to be again in an insanitary condition; while in Mile End two houses, after being completely repaired, were again found defective before the end of the year, and this was also the case with two houses in Bethnal Green and with one in St. George's. There are other houses which never attain the position of "remedied cases," houses in which one set of defects is no sooner put right than another set makes its appearance. It may easily be imagined how difficult a task this Committee has in dealing with these recurring nuisances.

On

On the whole the Committee may justly lay claim, not alone to have brought about the remedy of insanitary conditions in very many houses, but also to have aroused in the local authorities of the different districts a salutary sense of the importance of properly carrying out the responsible duties in relation to the public health the performance of which is entrusted to them by the law. Striking evidence of this is afforded by the statistics subjoined :—

Number of closets which the inspector found to be unprovided with flushing apparatus.

District.	Number of Houses Visited.	Number of Closets without Water Supply.
Whitechapel - - - - -	842	87 in 79 houses.
Mile End - - - - -	185	29.
St. George's-in-the-East - - - - -	325	34 in 33 houses.
Bethnal Green - - - - -	116	19 in 18 houses.

Thus, out of the 1,468 houses inspected in 1888, 159 (about 10 per cent.) were found to be without a water supply to their closets.

When it is remembered that in the first seven months of the Committee's existence (May—December 1884), the inspector found “that out of the total number of 1,747 houses visited there were no fewer than 1,621 houses” (nearly 93 per cent.) “in which the water-closets were unprovided with any arrangement for flushing with water” (the majority of these 1,621 houses being within the jurisdiction of the Board of Works for the Whitechapel district*), and that a committee of that authority, appointed to consider the charges made by this Committee with reference to sanitary defects within the Whitechapel district, observed in their report that “the desire to have a water supply apparatus to closets appears to be the common mistake made by all upon their outset to improve such places as the courts in this district,” it will at once be perceived that the figures just given point to a radical change of policy on the part of the local sanitary authorities in the direction of enforcing compliance with the express provisions of the law, directing that all closets shall be provided with flushing apparatus, a change which this Committee believes to be the demonstrable consequence of their persistent action.

To turn from sanitary defects of this grave nature to the question of dust collection; a question of importance in these crowded quarters; it should be noted that in the course of his visits, Mr. Goodwyn came across accumulations of refuse in quantities prejudicial to health in 35 instances in Bethnal Green, in 127 in Mile End, in 195 in St. George's-in-the-East, and in no less than 484 cases in Whitechapel.

The question of dust in the Whitechapel district is one which this Committee believes to demand the serious attention of the Board of Works for that district. That Board about two years ago initiated a novel method; it was proposed to supply the inhabitants with pails to be used in the place of dust-bins, and to be emptied by the dustmen at frequent intervals. The distribution of these pails was commenced, but has not as yet been carried out in a thorough manner. In the meantime very many houses possess neither pails nor efficient dust-bins. Thus, out of the 842 houses visited by our inspector in Whitechapel, 196 were found to be unprovided with pails, and to have either no dust-bins or defective dust-bins, the particulars being as follows :—

Without either Pails or Bins.	Bins without Covers.	Bins without Slides.	Rain Water from Roofs running into Bins.
45	145	53	16

The cases referred to in this table are those of single houses. But in many instances the inhabitants of several separate houses have to deposit their refuse in one bin; and the condition of numerous dust-bins used in common in this manner, sometimes by large numbers of persons, certainly leaves much to be desired. Thus, Mr. Goodwyn found that all the persons living in Diamond-court have to get rid of their dust by passing it through a hole in the wall of the yard attached to 22, Great Pearl-street, into the bin belonging to that house. This bin, which is situated in a small and confined area, and is about 5 feet in length, 3½ feet in width, and 3½ feet in depth, has no cover. At Montague-place there exists a large dust-bin (about 6 feet by 4 feet by 3 feet 6 inches), used by the tenants of no fewer than 14 houses. This bin has no cover, and is so constructed as to retain the water which falls into it to a depth of some inches. As the windows of the ground-floor

* The reason for this was, not that the Whitechapel district was generally behind other localities in respect of sanitation, but that the attention of the Committee was at first directed mainly to Whitechapel, within which district the majority of the Jewish poor reside.

ground-floor rooms of the house on each side of this receptacle are distant from the bin less than 3 feet, it will easily be imagined how prejudicial to the health of the residents the present condition of this bin must be. In all, as many as 13 of these public or semi-public dust-bins attracted the attention of our inspector in the Whitechapel district as being in every case unprovided with a cover, and in two cases unprovided with a slide, while in one instance the bin received the rain-water from the roof of an adjoining closet and retained this water, being undrained, and its base being below the level of the surrounding pavement.

No doubt, when the Board of Works for the Whitechapel district, a body which, as a rule, exhibits considerable zeal in regard to sanitation, shall have completed the alterations in their system of dust removal already initiated, most of the matters last alluded to will be remedied; but in the interest of the health of the district it is to be desired that these alterations shall proceed with much greater rapidity than heretofore.

The procedure adopted by the Committee remains unchanged. Every effort is always made to induce the owners of insanitary houses to remedy defects without pressure on the part of the local authorities; and in this manner the remedy of the defects found in 156 houses was in 1888 obtained by the unaided efforts of this Committee. Where, however, the owners of insanitary property are deaf to their appeals, the intervention of the local authorities is requested.

The number of the notices and letters sent to owners of houses or their agents in the past year was 482 (the majority written by the inspector, but a few in special cases by the hon. secretary of this Committee).

The hon. secretary addressed in 1888 to different local authorities 31 letters (16 to Whitechapel, six to Mile End, six to St. George's-in-the-East, and three to Bethnal Green). In addition, in regard to certain matters requiring direct and immediate action on the part of medical officers of health, one letter was addressed by the hon. secretary, and two (in his absence from London) by Mr. Goodwyn, to those officials.

Each of the letters written by the hon. secretary to the several local authorities dealt with a long list of cases in the district of the vestry or board addressed, cases observed by the inspector in the course of systematic visitations during a number of days. But when the defects discovered are of such a nature as to require immediate intervention, the inspector of this Board communicates directly with the sanitary inspector of the local authority concerned.

In this way Mr. Goodwyn sent last year 62 letters referring to 152 cases, as under:--

To the sanitary inspector of Whitechapel	-	-	-	34	letters relating to	61	cases.
"	"	"	Mile End	-	-	9	"
"	"	"	St. George's-in-the-East	13	"	"	50
"	"	"	Bethnal Green	-	6	"	10

In regard to defective fittings to water-closet apparatus, &c., the inspector addressed to water companies 37 letters referring to 87 cases.

Where structural defects of importance were discovered, notice was given by letter to district surveyors, as under:—

To the district surveyor of Whitechapel	-	-	-	7	letters relating to	11	cases.
"	"	"	Mile End	-	-	2	"
"	"	"	St. George's-in-the-East	6	"	"	30
"	"	"	Bethnal Green	-	3	"	9
In all				-	18	"	53

All letters to district surveyors are now written by the hon. secretary, after careful consideration of the facts in each case, the action of the local authorities not being invited without urgent necessity. Unfortunately, that necessity is found to exist in numerous cases in which injury to life and limb is threatened by dangerous and neglected structures.

The inspector, whose duties make him familiar with the movements of the population in the districts where the Jewish poor chiefly reside, reports that the influx of foreigners is at present very much smaller than a few years back; and that the number of the new comers in 1888 appears to be certainly no larger than in 1887, while a steady tide of emigration removes from East London very many of the recent arrivals. All the same, no progress in regard to the prevention of overcrowding, whether of workshops by day or of sleeping rooms by night, can be announced. This is a matter with which, as will easily be understood, this Committee are, under existing circumstances, unable to deal in an effectual manner. They trust, however, that this question will receive from the local authorities and from the Legislature that consideration to which its important bearing upon the health of the people unquestionably entitles it.

The Committee of Visitors, of which the delegate Chief Rabbi is president, and the Rev. D. Fay hon. secretary, continue to render a great service by admonishing persons whose habits stand in need of improvement in regard to cleanliness, and to whom their attention is directed by this Committee.

David F. Schloss,
Honorary Secretary.

January 1889.

APPENDIX K.

PAPER handed in by Mr. A. Redgrave, C.B., 16 July 1889.

No. 9.

Period of Employment.—8 a.m.—8 p.m.

FACTORY and WORKSHOP ACT, 1878, 41 Vict. c. 16, s. 42, and sch. 3, part 1.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION.

Period of Employment.—8 a.m.—8 p.m.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, s. 42, contains a Special Exception to the effect that in the factories and workshops or parts thereof to which the exception applies the period of employment, for young persons and women, if so fixed by the occupier and specified in the notice, may, except on Saturday, begin at 8 a.m. and end at 8 p.m., and on Saturday may begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m., or where it begins at 7 a.m. may end at 3 p.m., and the period of employment for a child in a morning set may begin at the same hour, and the period of employment for a child in the afternoon set may end at the same hour.

And whereas the said exception applies to any factory or workshop or part thereof in which any of the following manufacturing processes or handicrafts are carried on: that is to say,

- (a) Lithographic printing; (b) Turkey red dyeing; (c) The making of any article of wearing apparel; (d) The making of furniture hangings; (e) Artificial flower making; (f) Bon-bon and Christmas present making; (g) Valentine making; (h) Fancy box making; (i) Envelope making; (k) Almanack making; (l) Playing card making; (m) Machine ruling; (n) Biscuit making; (o) Firewood cutting; (p) Job dyeing; or, (q) Aërated water making; and also to (r) Bookbinding works; (s) Letter-press printing works; and (t) A part of a factory or workshop which is a warehouse not used for any manufacturing process or handicraft, and in which persons are solely employed in polishing, cleaning, wrapping, or packing up goods.

And whereas by Order, dated 20th December 1882 (which Order will continue in force until revoked), the Secretary of State has extended the said Special Exception to the following:—

Paper-staining Works.
Lace Warehouses.
Hosiery Warehouses.

The manufacture of—
Silver plate.
Electro-plate.
Britannia metal.
Cutlery.

The manufacture of—
Scissors.
Files.
Saws.
Jewellery.
Enamelling.
Ornaments and appliances for personal use.
Die sinking.
Tobacco.

Non-textile factories and workshops in which card-making and straw board lining are carried on.

Ribbon warehouses being workshops.

Turning and cutting of wood, bone, and ivory.

Cabinet and furniture making.

I hereby give notice that it is intended, after seven days from the date hereof, to act under the above Special Exception in the factory [or workshop] situated at

*Here describe the work sufficiently to identify the factory or workshop.

and which is carried on*
and of which
is the occupier.

The period of employment for persons employed under this Special Exception will be—

For young persons and women,

On any day (except Saturday) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Saturday from
to

And for children,

A. If employed in sets,

On any day (except Saturday),

Morning set from 8 a.m. to

Afternoon set from to 8 p.m.

On Saturday,

Morning set from to

Afternoon set from to

B. If employed on alternate days only,

On any day (except Saturday), from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Saturday from to

Signed

(Occupier or Agent.)

Dated

This Notice is in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State; and, seven days before the Special Exception is first acted upon, one copy must be served on the inspector, and another copy affixed in the factory [or workshop], and so long as the Special Exception is acted upon, must be kept affixed there.

When the occupier intends no longer to avail himself of this Special Exception, he must serve on the inspector a notice as follows:—

It is intended not to act, after the date hereof, upon the Special Exception under Section 42 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, in the factory [or workshop] situated at

in which is carried on

and of which

is the occupier.

Signed

(Occupier or Agent.)

Dated

To

H. M. Inspector.

APPENDIX L.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *A. Redgrave*, C.B., 16th July 1889.

No. 21.

Overtime.—Additional 2 Hours.

FACTORY and WORKSHOP ACT, 1878, 41 Vict. c. 16, s. 53, and sch. 3, part 3.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION.

Overtime.—Additional Two Hours, and condition under which such Overtime may be Worked.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, contains a Special Exception to the effect that the regulations of the Act with respect to the employment of young persons and women shall not prevent the employment in the factories and workshops, or parts thereof to which the exception applies, of young persons and of women during a period of employment beginning at 6 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m., or beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m., or beginning at 8 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m., if they are employed in accordance with the following conditions; namely,

- (1.) There shall be allowed to every such young person and woman for meals during the period of employment not less than two hours, of which half an hour shall be after 5 o'clock in the evening; and
- (2.) Any such young person or woman shall not be so employed on the whole for more than five days in any one week, nor for more than 48 days in any twelve months.

And whereas the Special Exception is by the Act declared to apply to the factories and workshops and parts thereof following; viz.:—

- (1.) Where the material which is the subject of the manufacturing process or handicraft is liable to be spoiled by weather; namely,

(a) Flax scutch mills; and (b) A factory or workshop, or part thereof, in which is carried on the making or finishing of bricks or tiles not being ornamental tiles; and (c) The part of rope works in which is carried on the open-air process; and (d) The part of bleaching and dyeing works in which is carried on open-air bleaching or Turkey-red dyeing; and (e) A factory or workshop, or part thereof, in which is carried on glue making; and

- (2.) Where press of work arises at certain recurring seasons of the year; namely,

(f) Letter-press printing works; (g) Bookbinding works; and a factory, workshop, or part thereof in which is carried on the manufacturing process or handicraft of—(h) Lithographic printing; or (i) Machine ruling; or (l) Firewood cutting; or (t) Bon-bon and Christmas present making; or (m) Almanac making; or (n) Valentine making; or (o) Envelope making; or (p) Aërated water making; or (q) Playing card making; and

- (3.) Where the business is liable to sudden press of orders arising from unforeseen events; namely, a factory or workshop, or part thereof, in which is carried on the manufacturing process or handicraft of—

(r) The making up of any article of wearing apparel; or (s) The making up of furniture hangings; or (t) Artificial flower making; or (u) Fancy box making; or (v) Biscuit making; or (w) Job dyeing; and

and also (x) A part of a factory or workshop which is a warehouse not used for any manufacturing process or handicraft, and in which persons are solely employed in polishing, cleaning, wrapping, or packing up goods.

And whereas by Orders dated as under, which Orders will continue in force until revoked, the Secretary of State has extended the said Special Exception to:

The occupation of—

Die-sinking, cardboard making, paper colouring and enamelling, rolling of tea-lead.

The occupation of—

The making of gas-holders, boilers, and other apparatus, partly manufactured in the open air.

The following non-textile factories and workshops, viz.:—

Dressing floors, tin streams, china clay pits, and quarries, in the county of Cornwall.

Non-textile factories, in which the only processes carried on are the processes of calendering, finishing, hooking, lapping, or making up and packing of any yarn or cloth, or any of such processes.

Workshops wherein the manufacture of fireworks is carried on.—Order dated 20th December 1882. And to—

The making of pork pies.—Order dated 27th November 1883. And to—

The processes of warping, winding or filling, or either of them, as incidental to the weaving of ribbons, in workshops.—Order dated 12th March 1884. And to—

The processes carried on in non-textile factories of calendering, finishing, hooking lapping, or making up and packing of any yarn or cloth, or any of such processes and none other. Order dated 27th August 1884. And to—

Male young persons employed in such parts of non-textile factories as are used for the carrying on of the occupation of pattern card making.—Order dated 28th March 1888.

And whereas by Orders made under the sixty-third section of the said Act on the 20th of December 1882, which Orders will continue in force until revoked, the Secretary of State has directed that it shall be a condition of the employment in any factory or workshop mentioned in Part III. of Schedule III. to the same Act of any young person or woman, in pursuance of an exception under the said fifty-third section, or in pursuance of an exception duly granted under such fifty-third section, that there shall be a cubic space of at least four hundred feet for every young person and woman so employed.

I hereby give Notice that it is intended, after seven days from the date hereof, to act under the above Special Exception in the Factory [or Workshop] situated at

in which is carried on*

and of which

is the Occupier, and that there is a cubic space of

feet for

every young person and woman so employed.

For young persons or women employed under this Special Exception the period of employment will, on any day except Saturday, be from to

and the additional meal-time will be from

to

Signed

(Occupier or Agent.)

Dated

This Notice is in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State; and, seven days before the Special Exception is first acted upon, one copy must be served on the Inspector, and another copy affixed in the Factory [or Workshop], and, so long as the Special Exception is acted upon, must be kept affixed there.

The prescribed particulars as to employment under this Special Exception must be entered in the prescribed Register [which the occupier must procure for the purpose] and reported to the Inspector.

When the occupier intends no longer to avail himself of this Special Exception, he must serve on the Inspector a Notice as follows:—

It is intended not to act, after the date hereof, upon the Special Exception under Section 53 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, in the Factory [or Workshop] situated at

in which is carried on

and of which

is the occupier.

(Occupier or Agent.)

Signed

Dated

To

H. M. Inspector.

*Here describe the work sufficiently to identify the factory or workshop.

APPENDIX M.

PAPER handed in by Mr. A. Redgrave, C.B., 16 July 1889.

NAMES, RANK, SCALE of PAY, and DATES of APPOINTMENT of the INSPECTORS of FACTORIES,
together with their Head Quarters, on 16th July 1889.

Names of Inspectors.	Scale of Pay.	Date of Appointment to Factory Department.	Head Quarters.
H.M. Chief Inspector,— Alex. Redgrave - - -	1,200 <i>l.</i> a year - -	16 Dec. 1844	Home Office, London, S.W.
H.M. Superintending Inspectors,— R. W. Coles - - -	500 <i>l.</i> a year, rising 20 <i>l.</i> a year to 700 <i>l.</i> The senior superintending inspector receives extra payment of 100 <i>l.</i> in respect of Ireland.	29 Jan. 1855	Manchester.
F. H. Whympster - - -		13 Mar. 1861	Home Office, London, S.W.
R. E. Sprague Oram - - -		1 July „	Home Office, London, S.W.
J. Henderson - - -		20 July „	Glasgow.
S. W. May - - -		22 July „	Leeds.
H.M. Inspectors,— G. H. L. Rickards - - -	410 <i>l.</i> a year, rising 15 <i>l.</i> a year to 500 <i>l.</i>	23 Nov. 1858	Leeds.
J. B. Lakeman - - -		29 Dec. „	Home Office, London, S.W.
W. H. Beadon - - -		30 Jan. 1865	Southampton.
T. S. Oswald - - -		10 Feb. „	Nottingham.
E. Gould - - -		30 June 1866	Home Office, London, S.W.
G. T. Godfrey-Faussett - - -		28 Dec. 1867	Norwich.
G. I. L. Blenkinsopp - - -		30 Dec. „	Peterborough.
W. H. Johnston - - -		1 Jan. 1868	Bristol.
W. D. Cramp - - -		7 Mar. „	Coventry.
T. A. Astley - - -		10 Mar. „	Stoke-on-Trent.
* J. H. Bignold - - -		14 Mar. „	Plymouth.
William Chaytor, Sir (Bart.) - - -		2 Jan. „	Darlington.
C. R. Bowling - - -		8 June „	Home Office, London, S.W.
E. H. Osborn - - -	300 <i>l.</i> a year, rising 10 <i>l.</i> a year to 400 <i>l.</i>	20 June „	Rochdale.
W. O. Meade King - - -		22 Sept. „	Worcester.
R. W. Cooke Taylor - - -		27 May 1869	Preston.

* 1st Class of Inspectors.

NAMES, Rank, Scale of Pay, and Dates of Appointment of the Inspectors of Factories, &c.—*continued.*

Names of Inspectors.	Scale of Pay.	Date of Appointment to Factory Department.	Head Quarters.
H.M. Inspectors— <i>continued.</i>			
J. Jones - - - -	300 <i>l.</i> a year, rising 10 <i>l.</i> a year to 400 <i>l.</i>	13 Jan. 1871	Manchester.
W. A. Beaumont - - -		2 Aug. „	Bradford.
J. A. Redgrave - - -		1 Feb. 1872	Home Office, London, S.W.
H. J. Cameron - - -		16 Mar. „	Belfast.
H. W. Kindersley - -		16 Mar. „	Edinburgh.
H. S. Richmond - - -		22 April „	Liverpool.
A. G. K. Woodgate - -		7 May „	Dublin.
C. C. Hoare - - - -		1 Oct. „	Wolverhampton.
W. E. Stokes - - - -		26 Oct. „	Stockport.
W. H. Brewer - - - -		30 April 1873	Bolton.
J. S. Maitland - - -		2 June „	Glasgow.
H. P. Smith - - - -		17 June 1875	Sheffield.
J. F. Bevan - - - -		25 Mar. 1876	Walsall.
L. H. Hamilton - - -		21 July „	Blackburn.
S. H. Knyvett - - - -		26 Sept. 1877	Birmingham.
A. C. Armstrong - - -		20 Mar. 1878	Leicester.
E. M. Roe - - - -		16 Feb. 1880	Birmingham.
A. P. Vaughan - - - -		2 Sept. „	Salford.
J. D. Prior - - - -		21 Mar 1881	Huddersfield.
J. A. Hine - - - -		1 Nov. „	Burnley.
H. M. Robinson - - -		31 Oct. 1882	Dundee.
A. Lewis - - - -		5 May 1885	Swansea.
R. P. Arnold - - - -		6 June 1882	Ashton-under-Lyne.
H.M. Junior Inspectors,—			
W. J. Davis - - - -	200 <i>l.</i> a year, rising 10 <i>l.</i> a year to 300 <i>l.</i>	9 Feb. 1883	Sheffield.
A. Platt - - - -		18 Sept. „	Manchester.
G. B. Snape - - - -		21 Sept. „	Home Office, London, S.W.
J. Pearson - - - -		13 Mar. 1884	Liverpool.
J. T. Birtwistle - - -		26 Jan. 1885	Home Office, London, S.W.
R. Tinker - - - -		2 Jan. 1886	Birmingham.
G. Sedgwick - - - -		18 Oct. „	Glasgow.
C. W. Shaw - - - -		19 Feb. 1887	Home Office, London, S.W.
E. T. Dawson - - - -		9 Mar. „	Leeds.
J. H. Walmsley - - -		17 July 1888	Stourbridge.

Notes.

The whole of the staff are allowed the travelling expenses actually expended, with limited hotel expenses, which amounted in the last financial year to 4,990 *l.* 8 *s.* 10 *d.*
The addition of two Junior Inspectors has received approval.

1886.

NAMES of the DISTRICTS, together with their AREA and POPULATION, so far as it was possible to ascertain them.

District.	Description of District.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1881.
*Leeds - - -	Leeds and neighbourhood and the East Riding of Yorkshire.	—	—
Worcester - - -	Counties of Worcester, Hereford, Radnor, and parts of Salop and Gloucester.	—	—
*Central Metropolitan -	Centre of the Metropolis east of Farringdon-street to Mile End-road, and northward to Barnet, Hatfield, Watford, Rickmansworth, St. Albans, and Tring.	—	—
Southampton - - -	Counties of Hants, Dorset, parts of Berks, Wilts, and Somerset.	1,665,029	784,498
		The parts of Berks, Wilts, and Somerset cannot be ascertained.	
Nottingham - - -	Nottinghamshire and Mid-Lincolnshire -	527,752	391,815
		The part of Lincolnshire cannot be ascertained.	
*West Metropolitan -	The Metropolis west of Farringdon-street and north of the Thames, with the chief part of Bucks, and part of Berks and Oxfordshire.	—	—
Cork - - -	The Province of Munster and the Counties of Galway, Mayo, King's County, Queen's County, Kilkenny, and Wexford.	11,224,462	2,234,261
Peterborough - - -	Counties of Bedford, Rutland, and Huntingdon (except St. Ives), north of Northamptonshire, and southern portion of Lincolnshire.	—	—
Bristol - - -	Chief parts of Gloucestershire and Somerset, and parts of Berks and Wilts.	—	—
Stafford - - -	Principal part of Staffordshire, including the Pottery District.	—	—
Ashton-under-Lyne -	Ashton-under-Lyne, Staleybridge, Mossley, Saddleworth, Glossop, New Mills, Hayfield.	—	—
Plymouth - - -	Devon and Cornwall - - - -	2,518,873	934,281
North-East of England -	North Yorkshire, Northumberland, and Durham.	1,937,904	1,301,344
		The part of the North Riding of Yorkshire cannot be ascertained.	
Norwich - - -	Norfolk, Suffolk, and north of Essex, Cambridge, St. Ives, Ely, March, Wisbeach.	—	—
Coventry - - -	Coventry, Leamington, Nuneaton, Rugby, Northampton, the south of Northamptonshire, and part of Oxfordshire.	—	—
East Metropolitan -	East of the Metropolis from Mile End-road to Chelmsford, Witham, Braintree, and northward to Buntingford, Hertford, and Bishop's Stortford.	—	—
Rochdale - - -	Rochdale, Burnley, Bacup, Bury, Todmorden	—	—
*Manchester - - -	Manchester, Warrington, Cadishead, Altrincham, Knutsford, Northwich.	—	—
North-West of England -	North Lancashire, Westmoreland and Cumberland, Settle, Hawes.	1,471,067	314,838
		The parts of North Lancashire and West Riding of Yorkshire cannot be ascertained.	
Bradford - - -	Bradford, Wakefield, Mirfield, Dewsbury, Pontefract.	—	—

* In these districts the inspector has the assistance of a junior inspector.

NAMES of the Districts, together with their Area and Population, &c.—*continued.*

District.	Description of District.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1881.
*South Metropolitan	Kent, Surrey, and Sussex - - - -	2,413,790	2,905,110
Belfast - - - -	Counties of Antrim and Londonderry, and part of Noth-East Donegal.	1,284,395	586,934
Edinburgh - - - -	Counties of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Fife, Haddington, Berwick, Peebles, Selkirk, Roxburgh, and part of Stirling.	1,993,469	778,024
*Liverpool - - - -	Liverpool, Prescott, Runcorn, Chester, St. Helen's, Birkenhead, with Counties of Flint, Denbigh, Merioneth, Carnarvon, and Anglesea.	—	—
Dublin - - - -	Counties of Dublin, Down, Kildare, Wicklow, Louth, Meath, Westmeath, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Sligo, and the greater part of Donegal.	7,703,379	2,221,151
*Wolverhampton - - - -	Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Coalbrookdale, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, and Montgomeryshire.	—	—
Stockport - - - -	Stockport, Hyde, Macclesfield, Sandbach, Crewe, Droitwich, Buxton, Bakewell.	—	—
Bolton - - - -	Bolton, Leigh, Wigan, Ormskirk - - -	—	—
*Glasgow - - - -	Counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Ayr, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigtown, Argyll, and part of Stirling.	5,366,556	1,693,984
*Sheffield - - - -	Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Doncaster, Grimsby, and North Lincolnshire.	—	—
Walsall - - - -	West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Walsall, Lichfield, Oldbury, Smethwick, Bilston, and Cannock.	—	—
Blackburn - - - -	Blackburn, Over Darwen, Accrington, Whalley, Clitheroe.	—	—
*Birmingham, No. 1 - - - -	East side of Birmingham, King's Norton, Stratford-on-Avon, Alcester, Redditch.	—	—
Leicester - - - -	Leicestershire and part of Derbyshire - - -	511,907	321,258
Birmingham, No. 2 - - - -	West side of Birmingham, Tamworth, Sutton, Coldfield, Coleshill, Solihull, Warwick.	—	—
Salford - - - -	Salford, Middleton, and Oldham - - -	—	—
Huddersfield - - - -	Huddersfield and Halifax - - - -	—	—
Dundee - - - -	Forfar, Perth, and North of Scotland - - -	11,661,656	1,107,785
Swansea - - - -	Counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecknock, Carmarthen, Pembroke, and Cardigan.	2,776,440	1,067,404

* In these districts the inspector has the assistance of a junior inspector.

In this Return the districts are given as they existed in December 1886.

In 1887 a new district was formed with head-quarters at Burnley, and the Cork District was merged in the Dublin District.

The area and population have been given in the cases in which it has been possible to ascertain them.

Except in the instances named, the inspectors' districts are not coterminous with counties, boroughs, parishes, townships, or registration districts. They were formed with a view to economy of time and expense, so that, irrespective of local boundaries, each inspector might reach the works under him by the most direct route, especially having reference to the facilities afforded by the railway systems.

NUMBER of REGISTERED FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS, together with the NUMBER of VISITS paid during 1886.

District under Supervision of an Inspector, with or without a Junior Inspector.	Number of Registered Factories.	Number of Registered Workshops.	Number of Visits Paid to Factories during 1886.	Number of Visits Paid to Workshops during 1886.
*Leeds - - - -	2,281	1,630	3,605	1,931
Worcester - - -	772	1,229	947	1,435
*Central Metropolitan -	2,602	5,253	1,946	4,168
Southampton - - -	1,644	5,530	995	1,658
Nottingham - - -	1,940	1,298	1,465	730
*West Metropolitan - -	2,812	4,340	2,378	6,356
†Cork - - - -	1,645	281	727	67
Peterborough - - -	797	2,911	575	945
Bristol - - - -	2,241	3,041	1,305	913
Stafford - - - -	1,382	1,500	1,862	522
Ashton-under-Lyne - -	588	564	1,177	426
Plymouth - - - -	1,093	2,367	765	1,243
North-East of England -	1,374	180	1,861	246
Norwich - - - -	1,257	1,900	466	863
Coventry - - - -	1,430	2,220	920	839
East Metropolitan - -	1,332	960	1,562	877
Rochdale - - - -	1,498	510	2,027	376
*Manchester - - - -	2,203	1,600	2,403	2,593
North-West of England -	1,414	527	1,546	279
Bradford - - - -	1,434	480	1,308	199
*South Metropolitan - -	3,179	4,559	1,665	1,395
Belfast - - - -	1,320	1,059	1,264	1,387
Edinburgh - - - -	1,180	1,205	1,270	835
*Liverpool - - - -	2,133	2,418	2,786	1,560
Dublin - - - -	1,588	1,774	1,423	1,364
*Wolverhampton - - -	1,560	3,172	2,285	3,298
Stockport - - - -	795	311	1,651	184
Bolton - - - -	951	1,718	2,441	1,217
*Glasgow - - - -	3,626	1,528	2,454	902
*Sheffield - - - -	4,307	2,080	4,285	1,385
Walsall - - - -	832	921	1,325	664
Blackburn - - - -	929	623	989	1,072
*Birmingham, No. 1 - -	1,751	4,320	2,701	3,112
Leicester - - - -	1,118	893	1,372	393
Birmingham, No. 2 - -	983	1,904	1,223	1,244
Salford - - - -	1,316	556	1,868	409
Huddersfield - - - -	1,559	359	1,396	246
Dundee - - - -	1,283	1,077	1,419	763
Swansea - - - -	1,949	1,142	1,439	1,188
TOTAL - - - -	64,098	69,990	65,096	49,178

* In these districts the inspector has the assistance of a junior inspector.

In this Return the districts are given as they existed in December 1886.

† In 1887 a new district was formed with head-quarters at Burnley, and the Cork District was merged in the Dublin District.

APPENDIX N.

PAPER handed in by the Hon. *E. P. Theisiger*, C.B., 16 July 1889.

ABSTRACT of REGULATIONS of certain Foreign Countries respecting the Admission and Continued Residence of Destitute ALIENS. (Abstracted from Parliamentary Paper Miscellaneous, No. 1 (1887).)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

THE Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Vienna informs the British Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Phipps, that by virtue of Section 13 of the Ordinances at present in force relative to the Police Regulations with regard to passports, every foreigner travelling in Cis-Leithania is obliged to give satisfactory information, whenever he may be required to do so, with respect to himself and his means of subsistence.

Such an inquiry is at once put to all suspicious individuals, and admission into the Monarchy is permitted or refused to such persons according to the circumstances of the case.

To the class of persons who are at once turned back over the frontier belong vagrant aliens, deserters, suspicious-looking foreigners who are not able to give a proper account as to the object of their journey, and as to the sufficiency of their means of continuing it, foreign pedlars, workmen, day-labourers, and artizans who, on entrance into the Monarchy, cannot prove that they are certain to obtain immediate employment, or whose papers are unsatisfactory, and whose means for travelling are insufficient.

As regards the refusal to foreigners of the right of continued residence in Cis-Leithania, or in any of its component parts, a Commune can refuse residence in its district to foreigners if they, together with their belongings, do not lead a blameless life, and if they become a burden on public charity.

The law of the 27th July 1871, regulating the procedure of the police in forbidding any one to remain in any place, or in forcibly removing vagrants.

Contains particulars with regard to the persons in general, whether natives or foreigners, against whom an order to leave any place can be issued, and describes the circumstances under which the removal of any one by the police to the Commune to which he legally belongs, or beyond the district where this law is in force, can be effected.

According to paragraph 5 of Section 2 of the said Law, persons who are not natives of a place where this law is in force, and whose residence in such place is considered prejudicial to public order and safety, can be removed from the entire district, or any particular portion of the same, in which this law takes effect

The following Rules are

Binding on Bohemia, Dalmatia, Galicia, and Lodomeria with Cracow, Upper and Lower Austria, Salzburgh, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Bukovina, Moravia, Silesia, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Istria, Görz, and Gradisca, and Trieste with its territory.

Fourth Chapter.—*General Rules as to Passports.*

12. It is not necessary for the papers issued by our authorities or those of foreign countries to be *visé* or officially examined either at the frontier or in the interior of the Empire.

13. On the other hand, every traveller, both native and foreign, is bound to give an account of himself and his means of subsistence whenever this is demanded of him.

Law of 27th July 1871, for the Regulation of the Power of Banishment, and Removal from one place to another, exercised by the Police.

1. The removal of persons from a particular spot or district to their own Commune, or the banishment from the territory to which this Law applies of persons who do not belong to it, can only be effected by the police in the following cases:—

(a.) Tramps or other persons refusing to work, and dependent on the public benevolence;

(b.) Individuals

- (b.) Individuals who cannot give any account of themselves or their destination, and who cannot show any income or lawful means of subsistence ;

In addition, persons who do not belong to the territory within which this Law is in force may be banished from the whole or a particular part of that territory if their remaining can be shown to be contrary to the interests of public order or security.

Sir A. Paget reports to the Marquis of Salisbury that, Count Kálnoky informs him that destitute aliens are not expelled from Hungary unless they live by begging, or unless motives of public order render their expulsion advisable.

F R A N C E.

Viscount *Lyons* informed the Marquis of *Salisbury* that he had applied for information on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, in reply, transmitted a Memorandum which had been drawn up at the Ministry of the Interior.

As, however, this Memorandum appeared to relate not so much to the point on which information was desired as to the general law under which foreigners can be expelled from France, he referred the question to M. Clunet, and asked him to supplement the information furnished by M. Flourens by giving a list of the laws or regulations in question, if any such exist.

M. Clunet states that there is, properly speaking, no direct or positive legislation on the subject in France. He, however, prepared a paper on the general question of the control of immigration by the State.

MEMORANDUM by the Ministry of the Interior.

The question of expulsion is not governed by local regulations, but by a law of the 3rd December 1849, which is applicable to the whole of France.

By Article 7 of this law "the Minister of the Interior is empowered, as a measure of police, to order any alien travelling or residing in France to leave French territory at once, and to have him conducted to the frontier. He is similarly empowered in the case of an alien who shall have obtained authorisation to establish his domicile in France ; but after two months the measure shall cease to be effective if the authorization has not been revoked."

The said Article 7 provides, further "that in the frontier departments the Prefect shall have the same right in the case of a non-resident alien, provided he reports it at once to the Minister of the Interior."

Finally, Article 8 orders that "every foreigner who shall have withdrawn himself from the operation of the measures laid down in the preceding article, or who, having left France in consequence of those measures, shall have returned to that country without leave from Government, shall be brought before the tribunals and sentenced to a term of imprisonment of from one to six months. On the expiration of his sentence he shall be conducted to the frontier."

The course of action to be adopted, in the case of expulsion, has been explained to the prefects by various circulars, the most recent of which, that of the 17th December 1885, comments on the law, and expressly recommends those functionaries not to propose any expulsion until after they shall have ascertained that the stay of the person in question in France would seriously endanger public safety.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS by M. *Edourd Clunet*, Advocate of the Court of Paris.

E. Clunet, Advocate of the Court of Paris, having been consulted by Lord Lyons on the state of French legislation in regard to the right of expelling destitute aliens from the territory, states that there is no positive and direct legislation, properly so-called, on this subject in France ; for this is not a question of police law allowing the Government to expel strangers in certain specified cases. The matter is different. It is a question of legislation on the subject of strangers entering the country, in fact, of legislation or immigration.

A law of this kind, indeed, would be necessary in order to regulate the powers of the State to open or close its frontiers to strangers entering into the country.

Unlike other, and especially extra-European countries, France possesses no law on immigration.

* * * * *

Statistics show that of late years the number of births in France has remained stationary, but that notwithstanding this, the population of France has not ceased to increase ; this fact is due to the influx of a stream of immigrants, which is growing from year to year.

A surprising historical phenomenon results from these data, that is, that France has become a country of immigration, like America and Australia. This movement is estimated at an average of about 100,000 souls per annum. It may not be impossible that these new economical conditions will have some influence on future legislation, and call for specific measures ; they have, in fact, had such influence on the framing of the law

respecting naturalization which at this moment is before the Chamber of Deputies. We do not yet, however, know of any Bill on immigration.

In answer to the request addressed by the British Government to the Department of Foreign Affairs for the text of French laws giving power to prohibit destitute aliens from entering the country, the Ministry has furnished the text of the law of the 3rd December 1849.

This law was not intended to deal with the case under discussion, and is only indirectly connected with it.

This law has emanated from an idea of social and political protection, but it has no economical design. Its authors did not intend to erect by its articles a sort of dam against the influx of foreigners who could be reproached with nothing but their poverty. Its object was to empower the Government to expel from the territory those who might come to create disturbances.

In the present state of the law the Government are empowered to expel aliens by simple Ministerial decree; but they cannot, and in fact they do not, exercise this right except in case the presence of the foreigner in the country constitutes a scandal or a danger for the community.

The want of means of subsistence is not a sufficient ground for expulsion. Moreover, the law does not permit opposition to the entrance of the alien into the territory; it contains no preventive clause, either against dangerous or against merely destitute aliens. The law of 1849, whether we consider its spirit or its text, seem to us to furnish no legal means for preventing aliens from crossing our frontier, or even for expelling them from the country, on the sole ground of their indigence.

On immigration properly so-called France has only legislated for her colonies, and on purely special points.

In principle, "the Sovereign can prohibit any alien from entering the country, either in certain cases, or as regards certain persons, or in particular matters, as he may deem fit, or for the good of the State. There is nothing in this that does not result from the right of sovereignty and Empire; every one is obliged to respect the prohibition, and whoever ventures to violate it incurs the penalty imposed in order to render it effective.

GERMANY.

Mr. *Scott* informs the Marquis of *Salisbury* that there is no imperial or Prussian law prohibiting the admission into this country of destitute aliens.

With regard to the continued residence of aliens in Germany, it is held that by international law each State has the power to expel from its territory aliens who may have rendered themselves obnoxious or dangerous to it.

Destitute persons convicted of vagabondage or begging, or who, after becoming destitute, have been unable to procure a subsistence for themselves within a period of time laid down by the police, can be placed in arrest under section 361 of the Penal Code of the Empire.

Such persons can by section 362 of the same Code be not only committed into arrest, but also handed over to the Government police, who in aggravated cases can consign them to the workhouse, but destitute aliens thus handed over to the police authorities, instead of being consigned to the workhouse, may be expelled from the territory of the Empire.

An order issuing from the Minister of the Interior, of the 26th February 1879, enacts that—

"Aliens to be expelled are to be retained in police custody until the necessary arrangements for their expulsion can be completed."

In the case of an alien, application would, in the first instance, be made to the Consular or Diplomatic Representative of the pauper's nationality in order to ascertain whether he would be repatriated at the cost of his own Government, or in order to secure the eventual recovery from the authorities of his domicile of the costs of repatriation by the local authorities.

Aliens having no papers or proofs of legitimation, even although admitted into the country by the frontier police, can be expelled from Prussian territory by the local police without any special order from or intervention of the Government police, which last is only requisite in the case of expulsion from the territory of the Empire.

R U S S I A.

Sir *R. Morier* informs the Marquis of *Salisbury* that, as a result of his inquiries, it appears that no special Laws or local Regulations exist in Russia in connection with destitute aliens.

UNITED STATES.

Sir *L. West* informs the Marquis of *Salisbury* that the Regulations affecting the admission into the United States, or the continued residence therein, of destitute aliens are matter of Federal legislation, and are comprised in the Act of Congress of the 3rd August 1882.

“An Act to regulate Immigration.

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that there shall be levied, collected, and paid a duty of 50 cents for each and every passenger not a citizen of the United States who shall come by steam or sail vessel from a foreign port to any port within the United States. The said duty shall be paid to the Collector of Customs of the port to which such passenger shall come, or if there be no Collector at such port, then to the Collector of Customs nearest thereto, by the master, owner, agent, or consignee of every such vessel, within twenty-four hours after the entry thereof into such port. The money thus collected shall be paid into the United States' Treasury, and shall constitute a fund to be called the Immigrant Fund, and shall be used, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, to defray the expense of regulating immigration under this Act, and for the care of immigrants arriving in the United States, for the relief of such as are in distress, and for the general purposes and expenses of carrying this Act into effect. The duty imposed by this section shall be a lien upon the vessels which shall bring such passengers into the United States, and shall be a debt in favour of the United States against the owner or owners of such vessels: and the payment of such duty may be enforced by any legal or equitable remedy. Provided, that no greater sum shall be expended for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned, at any port, than shall have been collected at such port.

“Section 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby charged with the duty of executing the provisions of this Act and with supervision over the business of immigration to the United States, and for that purpose he shall have power to enter into contracts with such State Commission, board, or officers as may be designated for that purpose by the Governor of any State to take charge of the local affairs of immigration in the ports within said State, and to provide for the support and relief of such immigrants therein landing as may fall into distress or need public aid, under the rules and regulations to be prescribed by said Secretary; and it shall be the duty of such State, Commission, board, or officers so designated to examine into the condition of passengers arriving at the ports within such State in any ship or vessel, and for that purpose all or any of such Commissioners or officers, or such other person or persons as they shall appoint, shall be authorised to go on board of and through any such ship or vessel; and if, on any such examination there shall be found among such passengers any convict, lunatic, idiot, or any person unable to take care of himself or herself without becoming a public charge, they shall report the same in writing to the collector of such port, and such person shall not be permitted to land.

“Section 4. That all foreign convicts, except those convicted of political offences, upon arrival, shall be sent back to the nations to which they belong and from whence they came. The Secretary of the Treasury may designate the State Board of Charities of any State in which such board shall exist by law, or any Commission in any State, or any person or persons in any State whose duty it shall be to execute the provisions of this section without compensation. The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe regulations for the return of the aforesaid persons to the countries from whence they came, and shall furnish instructions to the Board, Commission, or persons charged with the execution of the provisions of this section as to the mode of procedure in respect thereto, and may change such instructions from time to time. The expense of such return of the aforesaid persons not permitted to land shall be borne by the owners of the vessels in which they came.

“Section 5. That this Act shall take effect immediately.”

Sir *L. West* informs the Marquis of *Salisbury* on 24th May 1887, that the Act of Congress of the 3rd August 1882, regulates immigration into this country, and that there are no other laws, treatises, or returns explaining the action of the same existing.

APPENDIX O.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *John Burnett*, 15th July 1889.

REPORT by the Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade on the Sweating System in *Leeds*.

To the Assistant Secretary, Commercial Department, Board of Trade.

Sir,

4 June 1888.

THE Co-operative Congress which I was requested to attend concluded its official sittings at Dewsbury on Wednesday, 23rd May. The following day was set apart for a visit by the delegates to Lord Ripon's seat at Studley Royal. As, however, a great deal of attention had been drawn to the prevalence of the sweating system in the tailoring trade in the neighbouring town of Leeds, owing to a strike among the workers, I devoted the day to a visit of that centre of industry, with a view to obtain some information as to the strike, the causes of dispute, and the general condition of the workers in this special trade.

Miss Beatrice Potter, who has given evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Sweating System, was at the time in Leeds collecting facts as to the state of the trade there, and by her kindness I was allowed to attend meetings which she had arranged for between herself and the workmen, and herself and the masters. With her I also saw Mr. Abrahams, a Jewish rabbi stationed in Leeds, who is remarkably well informed on most phases of the questions then interesting the Jewish community. From these sources I have obtained certain general facts of interest, which I propose to summarise briefly for the information of the Board of Trade.

In Leeds the growth of the Jewish population has been strikingly sudden and rapid. Twenty-five years ago there were not a sufficient number of Jews in Leeds to form a congregation, for which ten men are requisite. Mr. Abrahams was of opinion that there may now be 8,000 foreign Jews in Leeds. But, to be well within bounds, he limited himself to the general statement that the Jewish population in Leeds is not less than from 6,000 to 7,000. Recently the influx has been heavy and continuous, and the immigrants continue to arrive every day. There is here a board of guardians, but its resources are limited. Most of the people who arrive, however, either come to friends, or have sufficient means to enable them to live until they find work. As elsewhere, these people may be almost said to form a foreign colony in the heart of an English town, and Leeds has now its Jewish quarter just as the East-end of London has. They have settled down in a district called The Leylands, and have taken such complete possession of it that in the board school of the locality 75 per cent. of the children are Jews. The streets in The Leylands are beginning to assume distinctively foreign characteristics. The names above the shops are foreign, and the notices in the windows are printed in Hebrew characters. The words spoken are unintelligible to English ears, and about the race of the children in the streets and the people at the doors there can be no mistake. The quality of the house accommodation for working people in Leeds is, however, of a very superior character to that of the East-end of London, and there is an absence of that appearance of misery and squalor which makes Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East so oppressive to the stranger. Rents are also much lower, provisions are cheaper, and it may be said without reserve that the Jewish toilers in Leeds are better off than their brethren in London.

The bulk of the Jewish workers are employed at some branch of the tailoring trade, or at boot, shoe, and slipper making. The tailoring section is, however, so much the larger that I propose to deal with it only. Seven or eight years ago the men formed a society which was to include all the chief branches of the trade. For years it languished and made but little progress. It paid no benefits, but was for trade protection only. The contribution was only 2 *d.* per week, and the accumulated fund at the beginning of the dispute was only some 80 *l.* or 90 *l.* As a strike became not only possible, but likely, the whole of the men in the trade became members of the society, and thus there was an organisation, nominally, 1,200 strong, but with only funds for a twentieth of that number. We get thus at the fact that there are 1,200 men employed under the sweating system in Leeds. Women to men would seem to be in the proportion of about six to four.

We

We get thus a total of 3,000 people employed by the sub-contractors in the clothing trade of Leeds. The number of highly-skilled practical tailors in Leeds who belong to the Amalgamated Society of Tailors is about 270.

Leeds, being the centre of the most extensive cloth-producing district in the kingdom, possesses exceptional advantages as a place of manufacture of clothing of all kinds, and great as this trade has always been there, it is now extending more rapidly than ever. Several large clothing factories have sprung up; others are being erected, but so unequal are they to the trade to be done, that most of the Jewish sweaters who do work for the factory owners are on a much larger scale than those in London. Some of them are men of much capital, and have laid down engine power to drive their sewing machines.

As in London, they are mostly in the coat trade. A few may do vests or even trousers, but in the vast majority of cases these are done in the factories, or by people working in their own houses. The London sweater of eight or ten machines is a big man in the trade, and but few of them are to be met with, but in Leeds a master with only 10 or 12 machines is considered a small employer. The largest sweating master in the Leeds trade has 40 machines, and the average of machines to each master is somewhere between 20 and 30. It is said by the men that many, if not indeed most, of these sub-contractors are not tailors at all, never put in a stitch in their lives, but belonged to other trades, finding only in the tailoring trade an investment for the money they had earned or saved in other ways. Subdivision of labour is the special feature of the Leeds trade, and this is carried out to a greater extent than ever in London, as will be perceived when details are reached. It is sufficient now for me to say that there are workers who do nothing else but always sew on buttons. The larger scale of production in the Leeds shops, of course, allows of this minute classification more readily than the smaller shops of London, where the daily turnout of coats would not provide a sufficient amount of work for one "button-sewer-on." But the chief difference between the London and Leeds systems is to be found in the fact that the work is chiefly carried on in workshops of fair size, fairly cleanly, well ventilated, and under the supervision of the factory inspectors. There are, of course, some of these shops which are not in a satisfactory condition, and of which the workers complain, but as a rule they are a somewhat near approach to the regularity of the factory system. This state of things has brought with it not only a better sanitary and moral condition of the workers, but also shortened hours of labour. In these facts, I think, is to be found the reason why the Jewish tailors of Leeds are far in advance of those of the East-end of London. It is also to be said that the Leeds attempts at organisation among the men have been more successful than those in London, and affiliation with the Leeds Trades Council has given to the Jewish tailors opportunities of learning English methods of procedure. Therefore it is found that, while wages in the sweating shops of Leeds are but little below the London level, the hours of labour are considerably shorter.

These points will be best illustrated by a summary of the statements made by representative masters at a meeting convened for the purpose by Miss Potter; and, secondly, by a like summary of statements made by the representatives of the men.

According to the masters they prefer Jewish workmen to English because they are more steady, but if they can get a steady reliable English workman they prefer him because he is more skilful at his trade.

The rates of wages and hours of labour were stated to be:—

For "*fixers*," who sometimes act also as managers, the hours are $11\frac{1}{2}$ per day, and the wages rule at 7 s. and 7 s. 6d. per day for good men, but those less competent run down to 6 s.

Machinists (male) are rated at 6 s., 6 s. 4 d., 6 s. 8 d., 7 s., and there are a few at 7 s. 6 d. for a day of $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Learners or gradutors, after a brief apprenticeship, when they work for sustenance merely, receive from 2 s. 6 d. to 5 s., and are employed on sleeves and linings. Female machinists are sometimes more skilful than the men, and will earn 5 s., 5 s. 4 d., and even 6 s. per day of $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours if good hands. In cases where the machines are driven by power the rates are the same, the master finding his compensation in the increased turnout of work. The female machinists are mostly English, as the Jewesses are unable to give the necessary free time to learn the trade, being on their first arrival constrained to go into some employment where they can earn wages at once.

Pressers-off are paid at from 5 s. 6 d. to 6 s. 6 d. and 7 s. per day of $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Under-pressers reach a maximum wage of 4 s., though "*greener*s" work at first for a maintenance only, and rise by degrees to this figure. For these under-pressers the hours are not so regular, as they must come to light the fires and heat the irons early in the morning.

Fellers (females) earn 2 s. to 3 s. per day of $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours. In some cases these workers are employed by the piece at from 1 d. to 6 d. per coat, according to the work, and can sometimes at the lower price do six coats an hour. From this class spring:—

Button-sewers-on, who, if good hands, are paid 3 s. per day.

Basters (out) are paid from 3 s. to 5 s. per day.

Basters (under) receive 4 s. 6 d. to 6 s. per day, and in a few special cases rise to 6 s. 6 d. These latter often develope into "fixers."

Button-holers all work in the shop, but are paid by the piece at 5 d., 5½ d., and 6 d. per dozen holes, but have nothing to find. Good hands earn from 4 s. to 5 s. a day.

Overtime is paid for as ordinary time, but very little is worked even in the busy season. The busy seasons are said to be from March to June, and from August to December. The women are only allowed to work (under the Factory Acts) overtime on 48 days of the year.

There were present at the meeting, where these statements were made, eight employers, who found work for 400 workpeople. They somewhat differed as to the regularity of employment, one stating his average at four days per week; another at three and a-half; others at five and five and a-half days, while some were not inclined to answer the question. As to the prices paid by the wholesale dealers or manufacturers they make no complaint.

They were of opinion that the strike then ending was caused by outside agitation, and by many of the men themselves being socialists, who held that the middleman had no right to make a profit out of their labour.

Three years ago the men had combined to come out on strike, and had gained an hour per day. The men had also tried a co-operative shop but had failed. As to the cause of the strike of the last three weeks, the masters alleged that the society of the men insisted that none but society men should be employed in the shops, and that all strangers who came must pay an entrance fee of 30 s. The masters believed that the real object of the men was to turn out the females from the workshops. The proportion of females is increasing. The men also wanted uniformity of hours and a reduction of the standard from 62 hours per week to 58. The masters offered to agree to this, and pay by the hour, but the men refused. The strike had now broken down, and nearly all their hands were at work again. The facts and figures given by the men are somewhat different.

Rates of wages are lower, and the average time worked per week the year through is placed at a much lower figure.

Fixers, they state, are paid 6 s. to 6 s. 2 d. only for 11½ hours.

Machinists range from 6 s. to 6 s. 8 d. for first-class hands. There will be one first-class man to six or seven plain machinists, who, working on material, will earn 5 s. to 5 s. 6 d.; if on linings, 2 s. to 4 s.

Female machinists, on material, are paid 5 s. to 5 s. 2 d.; on linings, 2 s. to 3 s. 6 d., and learners, on sleeves, 10 d. to 2 s. per day.

Pressers-off range from 4 s. to 5 s. and 6 s. per day.

Under-pressers receive from 10 d. to 2 s. 8 d. per day, and may be expected to rise at five in the morning to light the fires, &c., and have also to take work to the warehouses.

Basters (under), 4 s. 8 d. to 5 s. 6 d., and

Basters (out), 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. for 11½ hours.

Fellers (females), 1 s. 9 d. to 2 s. 3 d.

Button-holers, 5 d. to 6 d. per dozen, with nothing to find.

The causes of the strike the men allege to be (1) a desire for a uniform rate of 58 hours per week instead of 62; (2) society men only to be employed, but new men to be admitted to the society at the usual terms. They deny that they wish to exclude female labour. They consider that they ought to be paid at the same rate per week for 58 hours as for 62. In other words, that they should have a half-holiday allowed them the same as other trades.

Their average amount of work per week they state at three days, though in some cases it will run to three and a-half days, but in others it is not more than two days.

Compared generally with the condition of the East-end trade, it may be said, that while in Leeds the wages may in many cases be 10 to 15 per cent. less, they are, as a rule, more uniform, and in some branches are quite as high, if not higher, than East-end rates; while, in the matter of hours, they are 20 to 25 per cent. less. Competition is not yet so keen as in London; the workshops are on a larger scale, and the cost of food, fuel, and house rent is much lower.

The

The discrepancies as to wages rates between the statements of masters and men can be readily seen from the following table:—

STATEMENTS OF MASTERS and WORKMEN as to WAGE RATES paid in LEEDS TAILORS' SHOPS under the SWEATING SYSTEM.

Branch of Trade.	Masters' Statement.				Men's Statement.			
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Fixers - - - - -	6	-	to	7 6	6	-	to	6 2
Machinists (male) - - - -	6	-	„	7 6	6	-	„	6 8
„ „ inferior - - - -	2	6	„	5 -	2	-	„	5 6
„ (female) - - - -	5	-	„	6 -	5	-	„	5 2
„ „ inferior - - - -	—				-	10	„	3 6
Pressers-off - - - - -	5	6	to	7 -	4	-	„	6 -
„ under - - - - -	1	8	„	4 -	-	10	„	2 8
Fellers (female) - - - - -	2	-	„	3 -	1	9	„	2 3
Button-sewers-on - - - - -	2	-	„	3 -	—			
Basters (out) - - - - -	3	-	„	5 -	2	6	to	4 -
„ (under) - - - - -	4	6	„	6 6	4	8	„	5 6
Button-holers - - - - -	4	-	„	5 -	—			

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Burnett*,
Labour Correspondent.

Board of Trade,
13 June 1888.

APPENDIX P.

PAPERS handed in by Mr. R. Giffen, 15 July 1889.

I.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Leather Boots and Shoes Imported into the United Kingdom in each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS.			Quantity.	Value.	YEARS.			Quantity.	Value.
			<i>Dozen Pairs.</i>	£.				<i>Dozen Pairs.</i>	£.
1868	-	-	36,421	110,160	1879	-	-	127,504	479,498
1869	-	-	31,502	90,619	1880	-	-	95,487	381,579
1870	-	-	44,554	131,034	1881	-	-	86,451	390,756
1871	-	-	44,229	138,394	1882	-	-	109,959	437,300
1872	-	-	46,139	151,218	1883	-	-	123,058	421,214
1873	-	-	40,304	146,731	1884	-	-	111,204	352,567
1874	-	-	41,742	153,870	1885	-	-	102,782	346,884
1875	-	-	84,733	240,000	1886	-	-	103,541	328,844
1876	-	-	109,896	328,479	1887	-	-	140,945	433,019
1877	-	-	99,396	348,786	1888	-	-	129,980	389,826
1878	-	-	102,690	370,147					

II.—STATEMENT showing the Total Value of Apparel and Slops (British Produce) Exported from the United Kingdom and from the Port of London only in each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS.			Apparel and Slops.		YEARS.			Apparel and Slops.	
			United Kingdom.	London only.				United Kingdom.	London only.
			£.	£.				£.	£.
1868	-	-	2,313,589	1,232,851	1879	-	-	3,208,941	1,978,953
1869	-	-	2,392,317	1,307,876	1880	-	-	3,212,103	1,960,155
1870	-	-	2,205,255	1,140,742	1881	-	-	3,711,797	2,406,588
1871	-	-	2,707,499	1,415,467	1882	-	-	4,169,382	2,887,863
1872	-	-	3,112,452	1,642,587	1883	-	-	3,633,804	2,480,324
1873	-	-	3,437,410	1,782,293	1884	-	-	3,936,483	2,578,179
1874	-	-	3,200,853	1,753,462	1885	-	-	4,161,150	2,912,514
1875	-	-	3,185,325	1,747,291	1886	-	-	3,902,211	2,606,447
1876	-	-	2,962,053	1,796,083	1887	-	-	3,947,306	2,489,886
1877	-	-	2,834,074	1,760,156	1888	-	-	4,658,589	3,091,589
1878	-	-	3,176,412	2,029,647					

III.—STATEMENT showing the Total Value of Leather Goods except Saddlery and Harness (British Produce) Exported from the United Kingdom and from the Port of London only in each of the undermentioned years, with the Quantity of British-made Leather Boots and Shoes Exported in each of the same Years.

YEARS.		Leather, Wrought, Boots and Shoes, and other Sorts, unenumerated.		Quantity of Boots and Shoes Exported from the United Kingdom.	YEARS.		Leather, Wrought, Boots and Shoes, and other Sorts, unenumerated.		Quantity of Boots and Shoes Exported from the United Kingdom.
		United Kingdom.	London only.				United Kingdom.	London only.	
		£.	£.	<i>Dozen Pairs.</i>			£.	£.	<i>Dozen Pairs.</i>
1868		1,586,511	1,123,898	439,265	1879		1,634,577	893,937	433,374
1869		1,543,611	1,007,603	436,329	1880		1,656,855	848,927	420,189
1870		1,448,415	773,261	372,600	1881		1,990,375	1,086,214	554,255
1871		1,961,907	981,042	506,928	1882		2,342,997	1,367,644	634,404
1872		2,071,689	1,021,091	579,130	1883		1,964,284	1,108,549	513,134
1873		2,012,784	951,937	527,694	1884		1,918,924	1,138,569	526,544
1874		1,796,098	801,801	410,114	1885		1,921,832	1,274,778	560,309
1875		1,900,254	843,635	462,840	1886		1,845,677	1,144,221	530,357
1876		1,733,848	877,027	443,293	1887		2,067,829	1,197,521	602,716
1877		1,641,653	882,762	436,166	1888		2,175,035	1,308,772	661,907
1878		1,661,488	880,518	430,273					

IV.—STATEMENT showing the Total Value of the Exports of British-made Furniture, Cabinet and Upholstery Wares from the United Kingdom in each of the under-mentioned Years.

YEARS.	Total Value.	YEARS.	Total Value.	YEARS.	Total Value.
	£.		£.		£.
1868 - -	205,146	1875 - -	387,669	1882 - -	761,579
1869 - -	249,521	1876 - -	404,659	1883 - -	706,298
1870 - -	231,026	1877 - -	379,872	1884 - -	716,248
1871 - -	258,945	1878 - -	449,499	1885 - -	649,658
1872 - -	314,062	1879 - -	415,495	1886 - -	633,207
1873 - -	390,343	1880 - -	480,821	1887 - -	573,544
1874 - -	374,799	1881 - -	597,182	1888 - -	745,808

V.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Leather Boots and Shoes of British Manufacture Exported to the undermentioned Countries during the Year 1888.

COUNTRIES, &c.	Value in 1888.
	£.
New South Wales - - - - -	419,589
British Possessions in South Africa - - - - -	377,214
Brazil - - - - -	183,769
New Zealand - - - - -	117,819
Victoria - - - - -	113,296
British West India Islands and British Guiana - - - - -	111,212
Queensland - - - - -	92,474
All other Countries - - - - -	387,353
TOTAL - - - - -	1,802,726

VI.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Apparel and Slops of British Manufacture Exported to the undermentioned Countries during the Year 1888.

COUNTRIES, &c.	Value in 1888.
	£.
British Possessions in South Africa - - - - -	944,045
New South Wales - - - - -	895,393
Victoria - - - - -	456,788
British North America - - - - -	291,981
Queensland - - - - -	277,372
New Zealand - - - - -	271,948
South Australia - - - - -	203,988
France - - - - -	194,710
British West Indies and British Guiana - - - - -	140,783
British India - - - - -	132,606
United States of America - - - - -	117,043
All other Countries - - - - -	731,932
TOTAL - - - - -	4,658,589

VII.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Furniture (Household), Cabinet and Upholstery Wares of British Manufacture Exported to the undermentioned Countries during the Year 1888.

COUNTRIES, &c.	Value in 1888.
	£.
New South Wales - - - - -	124,985
Victoria - - - - -	102,481
British Possessions in South Africa - - - - -	68,063
Argentine Republic - - - - -	56,687
United States of America - - - - -	49,758
France - - - - -	48,593
Other Countries - - - - -	295,241
TOTAL - - - - -	745,808

France.—Exports of Wearing Apparel.

VIII. A.—STATEMENT showing the Quantities and Value of the undermentioned Descriptions of Wearing Apparel (Domestic Produce) Exported from France, in each Year from 1868 to 1887, inclusive, so far as the same can be given.

	1868.		1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.
Wearing Apparel:																				
Linen underclothing, collars, cuffs, &c.	738	1,387,397	883	1,870,924	598	1,267,983	563	1,217,123	1,137	2,455,272	961	1,825,900	736	1,310,828	705	1,324,781	845	1,637,753	920	1,545,118
Cravats, fichus, &c., of silk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ready-made clothing, new	-	1,301,695	-	1,111,661	-	935,000	-	1,021,153	-	1,483,373	-	1,422,983	-	1,233,537	-	1,884,477	-	1,834,917	-	1,672,929
Ready-made clothing, second-hand	1,621	453,823	1,309	364,647	1,046	292,978	1,005	281,307	1,390	389,157	1,133	317,187	991	277,615	832	232,929	919	257,379	865	245,063
Hosiery	402	410,422	491	452,355	408	534,857	507	479,680	659	669,172	851	773,323	888	830,897	1,058	1,026,922	1,101	996,977	1,139	1,018,709
Hats and caps*	-	416,093	-	719,178	-	519,810	-	534,016	-	556,146	-	959,342	-	768,632	-	885,488	-	896,440	-	931,314
TOTAL	-	3,969,430	-	4,518,765	-	3,551,628	-	3,533,279	-	5,953,120	-	5,298,735	-	4,421,509	-	6,354,597	-	5,523,466	-	5,410,133
—Continued.																				
	1878.		1879.		1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.	1,000 Kilogs.	£.
Wearing Apparel:																				
Linen underclothing, collars, cuffs, &c.	1,015	1,550,810	1,025	1,410,879	1,199	1,487,239	1,291	1,446,333	1,284	1,437,755	1,220	1,366,484	1,329	1,594,313	979	1,409,862	790	1,263,940	1,002	1,602,861
Cravats, fichus, &c., of silk	26	93,111	38	132,095	27	92,065	21	72,540	14	46,129	12	36,678	18	57,908	15	45,967	12	39,930	7	22,071
Men's clothing, ready-made	1,244	782,999	1,263	795,634	1,471	900,640	1,986	1,210,778	1,288	791,107	1,237	675,500	1,416	773,137	1,157	610,877	1,428	836,432	1,229	741,244
Women's clothing, ready-made	182	392,171	141	310,205	296	651,233	440	931,323	319	749,757	210	513,446	263	569,698	308	738,653	379	998,711	547	1,243,690
Ready-made clothing, second-hand	595	166,484	212	59,271	280	75,348	284	79,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hosiery	1,173	957,454	1,140	949,311	1,309	1,102,407	1,667	1,384,381	1,875	1,510,037	1,748	1,377,409	1,672	1,211,616	1,639	1,107,751	2,172	1,353,181	3,074	1,976,141
Hats and caps*	-	988,087	-	751,881	-	883,333	-	931,808	-	1,030,308	-	699,422	-	733,412	-	592,056	-	695,343	-	534,064
TOTAL	-	4,937,116	-	4,409,276	-	5,195,305	-	6,106,753	-	5,495,093	-	4,868,939	-	4,940,114	-	4,504,966	-	5,216,837	-	6,120,071

* From 1868 to 1880, inclusive, the figures are those for Hats of Felt, Straw, and Palm fibre only; and from 1881 to 1887, inclusive, the figures also include Hats and Caps of Silk and Wool.

Note.—1,000 Kilogs. = Ton of 2,204 lbs.

France.—Wearing Apparel.—Exports 1887.

VIII. B.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity of Wearing Apparel (Domestic Produce) Exported from France in the Year 1887, distinguishing the Countries to which Exported.

Countries to which Exported.	Men's Clothing.	Women's Clothing.	TOTAL.
	<i>Kilogs.</i>	<i>Kilogs.</i>	<i>Kilogs.</i>
Argentine Republic - - - - -	350,000	8,000	358,000
Algeria - - - - -	254,000	8,000	262,000
Belgium - - - - -	44,000	192,000	238,000
United Kingdom - - - - -	52,000	148,000	200,000
New Granada - - - - -	108,000	10,000	118,000
Switzerland - - - - -	66,000	42,000	108,000
Germany - - - - -	45,000	47,000	92,000
United States - - - - -	15,000	22,000	37,000
Brazil - - - - -	37,000	—	37,000
Tunis - - - - -	28,000	—	28,000
New Caledonia - - - - -	28,000	—	28,000
Senegal - - - - -	28,000	—	28,000
Italy - - - - -	—	21,000	21,000
Turkey - - - - -	14,000	5,000	19,000
Mexico - - - - -	14,000	—	14,000
St. Thomas - - - - -	13,000	—	13,000
Spain - - - - -	4,000	6,000	10,000
Chili - - - - -	—	6,000	6,000
Peru - - - - -	—	6,000	6,000
Portugal - - - - -	—	5,000	5,000
Greece - - - - -	2,000	—	2,000
Other Countries - - - - -	127,000	21,000	148,000
TOTAL - - - - -	1,229,000	547,000	1,776,000

Note.—1,000 Kilogs. = Ton of 2,204 lbs.

France.—Exports of Boots and Shoes.

IX. A.—STATEMENT showing the Quantities and Value of Boots and Shoes (Domestic Produce) Exported from France during each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS.	BOOTS AND SHOES.					
	Leather.		Gutta Percha.		TOTAL.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	1,000 <i>Kilogs.</i>	£.	1,000 <i>Kilogs.</i>	£.	1,000 <i>Kilogs.</i>	£.
1868	Not distinguished.		Not distinguished.		—	—
1869					—	—
1870					—	—
1871					—	—
1872					—	—
1873			42	10,061	—	—
1874	2,121	2,842,580	63	12,579	—	—
1875	2,620	3,354,053	97	19,502	2,218	2,862,082
1876	2,613	3,345,036	61	12,309	2,681	3,366,362
1877	2,585	3,308,707	63	12,690	2,676	3,357,726
1878	2,852	3,651,194	77	15,478	2,662	3,324,185
1879	2,740	3,507,809	102	20,376	2,954	3,671,570
1880	3,107	3,977,123	36	7,160	2,776	3,514,969
1881	3,107	3,977,123	27	5,453	3,134	3,982,576
1882	3,074	3,935,338	34	6,886	3,108	3,942,224
1883	2,865	3,495,736	24	4,819	2,889	3,500,555
1884	2,537	3,095,190	30	5,915	2,567	3,101,105
1885	2,486	3,033,423	26	5,221	2,512	3,038,644
1886	2,331	2,843,998	48	9,617	2,379	2,853,615
1887	2,365	2,884,934	126	25,163	2,491	2,910,097
1887	2,398	2,781,410	98	19,700	2,496	2,801,110

Note.—1,000 Kilogs. = Ton of 2,204 lbs.

France.—Leather Boots and Shoes.—Exports, 1887.

IX. B.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity of Leather Boots and Shoes (Domestic Produce) Exported from *France* in the Year 1887, distinguishing the Countries to which Exported.

Countries to which Exported.	Leather Boots and Shoes.
	Quantity.
	<i>Kilogs.</i>
Algeria - - - - -	345,000
Argentine Republic - - - - -	304,000
United Kingdom - - - - -	278,000
Brazil - - - - -	264,000
New Granada - - - - -	205,000
Martinique - - - - -	145,000
Switzerland - - - - -	119,000
Belgium - - - - -	89,000
St. Thomas - - - - -	74,000
Hayti - - - - -	73,000
Guadeloupe - - - - -	67,000
Peru - - - - -	48,000
Spanish Possessions in America - - - - -	45,000
United States - - - - -	39,000
British Possessions in Africa - - - - -	37,000
Other Countries - - - - -	266,000
TOTAL - - -	2,398,000

Note.--1,000 Kilogs. = Ton of 2,204 lbs.

X. A.—STATEMENT showing the Total Value of Furniture of Domestic Manufacture Exported from *France* in each of the Years from 1868 to 1887, inclusive.

YEARS.	FURNITURE.		
	In Bent Wood.	Other.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.
1868 - - - - -	} - - Not distinguished - - {		537,400
1869 - - - - -			625,900
1870 - - - - -			525,100
1871 - - - - -			754,300
1872 - - - - -	4,100	707,300	711,400
1873 - - - - -	14,000	880,000	894,000
1874 - - - - -	6,200	741,900	748,100
1875 - - - - -	4,600	721,900	726,500
1876 - - - - -	8,500	689,100	697,600
1877 - - - - -	7,400	595,800	603,200
1878 - - - - -	7,400	554,600	562,000
1879 - - - - -	7,500	547,700	555,200
1880 - - - - -	6,800	579,000	585,800
1881 - - - - -	8,900	587,200	596,100
1882 - - - - -	17,500	561,200	578,700
1883 - - - - -	35,400	484,700	520,100
1884 - - - - -	32,900	461,600	494,500
1885 - - - - -	40,700	404,100	444,800
1886 - - - - -	60,900	441,900	502,800
1887 - - - - -	59,200	491,900	551,100

France.—Furniture.—Exports, 1887.

X. B.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity of Furniture (Domestic Produce) Exported from *France* in the Year 1887, distinguishing the Countries to which Exported.

Countries to which Exported.	Furniture.		
	In Bent Wood.	Other.	TOTAL.
	<i>Kilogs.</i>	<i>Kilogs.</i>	<i>Kilogs.</i>
Argentine Republic - - - - -	28,000	1,125,000	1,153,000
United Kingdom - - - - -	411,000	426,000	837,000
Algeria - - - - -	30,000	790,000	820,000
Belgium - - - - -	-	468,000	468,000
Spain - - - - -	104,000	309,000	413,000
Germany - - - - -	-	253,000	253,000
Portugal - - - - -	-	242,000	242,000
Brazil - - - - -	-	235,000	235,000
United States - - - - -	29,000	197,000	226,000
Switzerland - - - - -	45,000	145,000	190,000
Chili - - - - -	-	164,000	164,000
Turkey - - - - -	-	102,000	102,000
New Granada - - - - -	27,000	74,000	101,000
Uruguay - - - - -	-	85,000	85,000
Italy - - - - -	-	77,000	77,000
Tunis - - - - -	-	69,000	69,000
Senegal - - - - -	-	61,000	61,000
Egypt - - - - -	-	54,000	54,000
Mexico - - - - -	-	53,000	53,000
Hayti - - - - -	-	32,000	32,000
Greece - - - - -	-	31,000	31,000
Guadeloupe - - - - -	-	28,000	28,000
Austria - - - - -	-	24,000	24,000
St. Thomas - - - - -	-	20,000	20,000
Venezuela - - - - -	-	17,000	17,000
Other Countries - - - - -	66,000	256,000	322,000
TOTAL - - -	740,000	5,337,000	6,077,000

Note.—1,000 Kilogs. = Ton of 2,204 lbs.

United States.—Exports of Wearing Apparel.

XI.—STATEMENT showing the Value of the undermentioned descriptions of Wearing Apparel (Domestic Produce) Exported from the *United States*, during each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS ended 30th June	Cotton Wearing Apparel.	Woollen Wearing Apparel.	Hats and Caps.	TOTAL.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
1869 - - - - -	- - Not distinguished	- - Not distinguished	- - Not distinguished.	-
1870 - - - - -	88,369 *		40,522	128,891
1871 - - - - -	66,268 *		46,732	113,000
1872 - - - - -	89,125 *		46,137	135,262
1873 - - - - -	86,989 *		51,083	138,072
1874 - - - - -	89,165 *		41,638	130,803
1875 - - - - -	106,063 *		55,099	161,162
1876 - - - - -	120,749 *		51,532	172,281
1877 - - - - -	106,047 *		63,723	169,770
1878 - - - - -	118,700 *		64,394	183,094
1879 - - - - -	114,608 *		66,765	181,373
1880 - - - - -	101,298 *		46,194	147,492
1881 - - - - -	111,242 *		58,982	170,224
1882 - - - - -	126,125 *		57,480	183,605
1883 - - - - -	160,512 *		43,111	203,623
1884 - - - - -	72,765	110,970	Not distinguished	183,735
1885 - - - - -	55,786	112,235	- ditto - -	168,021
1886 - - - - -	90,737	97,116	- ditto - -	187,853
1887 - - - - -	92,241	83,174	- ditto - -	175,415
1888 - - - - -	66,177	75,668	- ditto - -	141,845

* Shown in the United States Trade Volumes as "Wearing Apparel" only in these years.

United States.—Exports of Boots and Shoes.

XII.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Boots and Shoes of Leather and India Rubber (Domestic Produce) Exported from the *United States*, during each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS ended 30th June			Boots and Shoes.					
			Leather.		India Rubber.		TOTAL.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			<i>Pairs.</i>	£.	<i>Pairs.</i>	£.	<i>Pairs.</i>	£.
1869	-	-	303,884	99,085	- Not distinguished -		—	—
1870	-	-	276,179	87,419	6,799	4,596	282,978	92,015
1871	-	-	301,216	92,805	7,420	5,310	308,636	98,115
1872	-	-	325,296	104,727	37,834	10,302	363,130	115,029
1873	-	-	260,759	87,822	7,090	4,993	267,849	92,815
1874	-	-	243,500	79,878	8,017	6,934	251,517	86,812
1875	-	-	293,051	89,451	9,358	6,774	302,409	96,225
1876	-	-	263,508	76,798	10,519	4,056	274,027	80,854
1877	-	-	300,484	86,381	12,616	5,718	313,100	92,099
1878	-	-	351,152	97,591	16,009	6,209	367,161	103,800
1879	-	-	329,355	83,866	12,954	4,213	342,309	88,079
1880	-	-	378,274	91,889	13,980	5,848	392,254	97,737
1881	-	-	300,968	77,988	25,890	7,799	326,858	85,787
1882	-	-	389,120	101,836	19,899	5,755	409,019	107,591
1883	-	-	442,687	112,491	26,680	7,682	469,367	120,173
1884	-	-	502,122	125,609	47,240	11,885	549,362	137,494
1885	-	-	492,906	124,615	84,183	18,587	577,089	143,202
1886	-	-	554,365	135,014	60,553	15,614	614,918	150,628
1887	-	-	623,714	152,608	86,166	16,915	709,880	169,523
1888	-	-	563,871	136,437	71,025	16,058	634,896	152,495

United States.—Exports of Household Furniture.

XIII.—STATEMENT showing the Value of Household Furniture (Domestic Produce) Exported from the *United States*, during each of the undermentioned Years.

YEARS ended 30th June			Household Furniture.	YEARS ended 30th June			Household Furniture.
			Value.				Value.
			£.				£.
1869	-	-	250,518	1879	-	-	375,895
1870	-	-	259,560	1880	-	-	344,558
1871	-	-	231,269	1881	-	-	394,627
1872	-	-	311,183	1882	-	-	487,956
1873	-	-	359,951	1883	-	-	537,368
1874	-	-	392,243	1884	-	-	506,215
1875	-	-	356,618	1885	-	-	443,477
1876	-	-	328,111	1886	-	-	442,044
1877	-	-	354,252	1887	-	-	412,238
1878	-	-	408,650	1888	-	-	486,577

XIV.—STATEMENT showing the Total Quantity and Value of Wearing Apparel Exported from Germany in each of the Years 1880 to 1888.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.†	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Wearing Apparel and Fancy Clothing manufactured of Silk and Half-silk, embroidered and trimmed.	Cmts. * 67,108	£. * 3,410,200	Cmts. * 72,559	£. * 3,687,200	Cmts. * 82,534	£. * 4,194,100	Cmts. * 87,184	£. * 3,876,600	Cmts. * 102,577	£. * 4,561,050	Cmts. 4,554	£. 1,041,300	Cmts. 4,874	£. 1,114,550	Cmts. 5,429	£. 1,241,550	Cmts. 5,862	£. 1,340,550
Clothing of Linen, Cotton, and Wool (including also Woollen Underclothing).	-	-	-	-	Not specified. See Note		-	-	-	-	85,643	2,828,850	87,734	3,228,250	104,001	3,435,250	104,578	3,454,300
Underclothing of Linen and Cotton	15,973	487,000	16,288	496,600	17,295	483,400	20,969	532,800	22,144	450,150	21,249	404,950	23,292	443,850	25,889	493,550	24,098	428,600
Other Wearing Apparel and Underclothing not specified.	195	4,050	53	1,200	148	4,100	1,313	51,500	1,019	40,400	1,334	51,200	2,104	65,000	53	2,050	49	1,900
TOTAL Wearing Apparel	83,276	3,901,250	83,900	4,135,000	99,977	4,651,600	109,466	4,460,900	125,740	5,051,600	112,780	4,326,300	128,004	4,851,750	135,382	5,172,400	134,587	5,225,350

* Including "clothing of linen, cotton, and wool, &c.," and also waterproof clothing in these years (1880 to 1884). The exports of waterproof clothing in 1885, 1886, 1887, and 1888 were as follows:—

1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.†	
Cmts. 342	£. 13,050	Cmts. 264	£. 10,050	Cmts. 380	£. 14,500	Cmts. 405	£. 15,450

† From the "Monatshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs," April 1889.

Note.—In converting into English equivalents the original weights and values (Kilogs. and Marks) in which the figures are entered in the German trade volumes, the Kilog. has been taken as equal to 2·204 lbs., and the Mark as 1 s.

XV.—STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Wearing Apparel Exported from Germany to the United Kingdom in each of the Years 1880 to 1887.

	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.		1886.		1887.†	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Wearing Apparel and Fancy Clothing, manufactured of Silk and Half-silk, embroidered and trimmed.	Cwts. *15,337	£. *779,400	Cwts. *14,627	£. *743,300	Cwts. *16,393	£. *833,200	Cwts. *17,888	£. *795,400	Cwts. *22,371	£. *994,700	Cwts. 1,047	£. 239,400	Cwts. 1,145	£. 261,900	Cwts. 1,293	£. 295,650
Clothing of Linen, Cotton, and Wool (including also Woollen Underclothing).	-	-	-	-	-	Not specified. See Note.	-	-	-	-	18,663	£. 616,450	20,615	£. 680,950	25,592	£. 845,350
Underclothing of Linen and Cotton - - -	846	25,800	563	17,150	581	16,200	1,854	47,100	1,848	37,550	821	15,650	937	17,850	2,035	38,750
Other Wearing Apparel and Underclothing not specified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	100
TOTAL Wearing Apparel - - -	16,183	805,200	15,190	760,450	16,977	849,400	19,742	842,500	24,219	1,032,250	20,631	871,500	22,697	960,700	28,922	1,179,850

* Including "Clothing of Linen, Cotton, and Wool, &c.;" and also Waterproof Clothing in these years (1880 to 1883). The Exports of Waterproof Clothing in 1885, 1886, and 1887 were as follows:—

1885.		1886.		1887.†	
Cwts.	£.	Cwts.	£.	Cwts.	£.
116	4,400	8	300	19	700

† This is the latest year for which the particulars have been published.

Note.—In converting into English equivalents the original weights and values (Kilogs. and Marks) in which the figures are entered in the German trade volumes, the Kilog. has been taken as equal to 2,204 lbs., and the Mark as 1½.

XVI.—EXTRACT from the "Board of Trade Journal," May 1888, regarding Female Labour on Ready-made Clothing in Germany.

THE following *précis* of a report containing the results of investigations by the Imperial Government of Germany into the question of female labour in the manufacture of ready-made clothing in that country is extracted from a recent report by the United States Consul at Leipsic:—

The report may conveniently be dealt with under four heads, the classes of females employed, the wages they earn, their mode of living, and their general character.

Classes of Workers—As regards the first point, the workers in this branch of employment may be divided into two classes, professional workers, whose labour is their only means of subsistence, and amateurs, for whom it is only the occupation of their leisure hours. The professional workers are drawn chiefly from the families of the working classes and from country girls who come to town to enter domestic service, and then take to sewing as a more congenial, if less profitable, employment. The amateurs, or "lady workers," as they are sometimes called, are chiefly found in the families of minor officials in public and private services. Their chief object is to gain additional pocket-money for dress and amusements, and as they do not feel the pressure of actual want, they have no interest in keeping up the market price of work. Consequently they take work at relatively low rates for the sake of a small actual gain in money, and their competition has thus a very bad effect on the market, as it tends to reduce prices continuously, while making work more difficult to get. Each of these classes, again, is subdivided into workers in ready-made dresses and workers in underwear. The conditions vary considerably in these two branches, especially in the matter of wages, which forms the second head of this report.

The workers in the ready-made clothing branch are the worse off, because the work is not only worse paid, but lasts only during the season, while their colleagues in the other branch are sure of continuous employment. In Berlin, the chief seat of these industries, cloak makers earn from 8 to 9 marks a week (the mark being equivalent to one shilling), beginners and the less skilful hands from 4 to 5 marks. The season lasts only four or five months, and the rest of the year the workers have to find other employment. The makers of under-clothing earn from 5 to 15 marks weekly. The average is difficult to fix, because the work is so varied, and is frequently done by piece-work. Perhaps it may be said that a skilful seamstress will earn from 12 to 15 marks weekly. As a specimen of the prices paid for piece-work the following are given:—

1 dozen collars -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50 to 85 pfennigs.
1 dozen cuffs -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60 to 110 pfennigs.
1 dozen shirts, the fronts, collars, and cuffs being supplied ready sewn -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.50 to 6.50 marks.
1 dozen button-holes (hand-work) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 pfennigs.
1 gross button-holes (machine-work) -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90 pfennigs.

A deduction of about 1 mark weekly has to be made for thread and sundries which the seamstresses have to supply themselves; and where the work is done at home the cost of fuel, light, and maintenance of the machine also comes into consideration.

Wages.—In Posen the daily wages in the factories vary from 50 to 60 pfennigs for 10 or 11 hours' work. Piece-work done at home is paid for as follows: overshirts, 4 marks; nightshirts, 2 marks, and various articles of ladies' wear from 1 to 2 marks per dozen. As a day's work varies from three-fourths dozen of the dearer to two dozen of the cheaper articles, the average weekly earning of a worker may be put at 12 to 15 marks, as in Berlin. In the ready-made dress branch the average does not exceed 1.50 marks.

In Breslau wages are somewhat lower, and range from 90 pfennigs to 2 marks. Young women who act as superintendents, or who do work in private families, earn more.

In Erfurt wages are very low among quilters. They seem to average about 7 marks a week for good workers; but six weeks in the year they are unemployed. Hand-sewers are worse paid; all the year round they do not earn more than 4½ to 5 marks a week.

In Dusseldorf, Reuss, Barmen, and Elberfeld, trade is much depressed by Berlin competition. It is said that good seamstresses can earn from 2.50 to 3 marks daily, and good embroiderers from 2 to 2.50; but the average appears not to exceed 1.50 marks.

In Saxony these branches occur chiefly in the districts of Plauen and Chemnitz. The average wages are reported to be now from 5 to 10 marks weekly. In Leipsic, where, however, the trade is not carried on to any great extent, the workers are chiefly paid by time, fair workers earning on the average 8 to 10 marks, good workers 11 to 12 marks. Piece-workers can earn from 16 to 18 marks a week by working 12 hours a day, but a sixth has to be deducted for thread, oil, and sundries.

In Bavaria the manufacture of these articles is also not carried on to any very large extent. The supply does not do more than meet the demand in Bavaria itself. The average wages are stated to be about 9 marks.

In the smaller German states the condition of the workers does not differ materially from that in the larger kingdoms.

Mode of Living.—Passing to the third head the mode of living of the workers, it will at once be evident that workers on the minimum wages are entirely precluded from any attempt at independent existence apart from the aid of their families. But as many of those who earn from 10 to 15 marks do manage to exist apart from their friends, it may be of interest to see how it is done. The answer is a painful picture of the straits to which the pressure of competition has reduced a whole class of useful members of society.

In Berlin the daily expenses of the seamstresses have been calculated to be as follows:—

	<i>Pfennigs.</i>
Sleeping accommodation and coffee (breakfast) - - -	- 20
Bread and butter for lunch - - - - -	- 15
Dinner, generally eaten in a restaurant or "people's kitchen" -	- 30
Bread and butter in the afternoon - - - - -	- 15
Supper - - - - -	- 20
Two bottles of beer - - - - -	- 20
	<hr/>
	1·20

or 8·40 marks per week.

Persons with practical acquaintance with economical living in Germany assure me that for the above sums it is possible in the cheaper quarters of the towns to obtain measurable quantities of eatable food; but there is also no doubt that the above figures represent the minimum of actual expenditure. Considering, further, that no provision is made for washing, repairs, or replacement of clothes, it is evident that the barest economy will scarcely be able to make the wages meet the demands. And if we add the outlay for that weekly amusement which the German nature imperatively demands, it seems almost inevitable not to curtail even the above meagre outlay.

In point of fact, this is what happens. From Posen it is reported that potatoes form the principal food of the workers. In Breslau a large number eat no dinner, but have some warm food with their supper; in the summer they live during the week on bread and herrings or sausages, and only eat a decent meal on Sundays. A still more striking case reported from the Düsseldorf-Elberfeld district is that of a married woman with two children who, in 16 months earned 419 marks. Materials and repairs to her machine cost in the same period 27 marks, leaving a net income of 392 marks. Rent of her two rooms for the same period came to 292 marks. The reporter very truly remarks that without the assistance of well-to-do relatives the woman could not have existed.

Character of the Workers.—On the last head, that of the general character of the workers, I can only touch lightly. The replies to the questions asked on this subject were, indeed, rather ambiguous, being generally to the effect that the character of the workers in the clothing branch was not perceptibly different from that of other classes in the same rank of society. So far as this means an absence of actual vice, it is satisfactory, and the German police have undoubtedly been successful in keeping social corruption within very narrow limits. On the other hand, it is not satisfactory in that it ignores the fact that among young people of the lower, middle, and working classes the relations of the sexes are very lax, and that this laxity has received a kind of tacit sanction which makes it dangerously easy to pass the line dividing right from wrong, and it is certain that insufficient wages are often the determining factor in taking a false step. From this point of view, the results of this inquiry in Germany are a warning, and one which all who are interested in the welfare of society should take to heart.

APPENDIX Q.

PAPER handed in by Mr. *R. E. S. Oram*, 16 July 1889.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1878.

INSTRUCTIONS by the Secretary of State for H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

H.M. CHIEF INSPECTOR.

1. SUBJECT to the directions of the Secretary of State, the Chief Inspector is responsible for the working of the entire department and for the enforcement of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, throughout the United Kingdom.

2. He is stationed in London, but from time to time, as he may deem necessary, will visit the several districts for the purpose of conferring with the staff, and of making himself personally acquainted with the special exigencies of the trades affected by the Act.

3. He makes an annual report to the Secretary of State, not later than the 31st December in each year, and includes therein a full account of accidents and of the prosecutions during the preceding year.

4. On the fourth Tuesday in each month he reports personally to the Secretary of State, or in his absence to the acting Under Secretary, any matters of interest, and takes his instructions as may be required.

5. Subject to the regulations of the Secretary of State, he appoints the certifying surgeons and settles their districts. On making any such appointment he will without delay cause a notice, stating the fact of such appointment and the name and address of the certifying surgeon so appointed, to be served on the occupier of every factory in the district assigned to such certifying surgeon, and will publish or circulate, in such manner as he shall think expedient, a similar notice for the information of occupiers of workshops in the same district.

Where the examination of children or young persons for certificates of fitness takes place, not at the factory or workshop, but at the residence of the certifying surgeon, or at some place appointed by him for the purpose, the chief inspector will cause a notice specifying the place as well as the day or hour so appointed to be served on the occupier of every factory in the district whom it may concern, and will publish or circulate, in such manner as he shall think expedient, a similar notice for the information of such occupiers of workshops in the same district as it may concern.

6. It will be his duty, by means of constant communication in writing and frequent personal interviews, to keep himself conversant with the mode in which the superintending inspectors and inspectors and certifying surgeons discharge their duties, and to give them such instructions as from time to time he may think necessary for the maintenance of discipline, and for ensuring efficiency and uniformity in the administration of the Act.

7. In particular he will receive from the superintending inspectors their weekly reports and monthly accounts, and those of the inspectors under them, and will have submitted to him for his decision all questions that may arise in the administration of the Act, whether concerning the construction to be adopted of any of its terms, or concerning any point of practice; and his sanction must be obtained previous to the commencement of any prosecution. Questions of special importance he will refer to the Secretary of State.

8. He attends at the office of the department to receive communications from public departments, manufacturers, the staff, and others, conducts the correspondence, directs the records of the work done by the staff, and supervises their expenses, and the preparation of statistical and Parliamentary returns.

9. During his vacation or other lengthened absence he will, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, nominate one of the superintending inspectors to act for him during his absence.

As to the DUTIES of SUPERINTENDING INSPECTORS and INSPECTORS in INSPECTION
of FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

(In these regulations the term Inspector is used to comprehend both Superintending Inspector and Inspector.

1. The primary object of the appointment of inspectors is to promote and enforce the uniform observance of the Factory and Workshop Act. Any irregularity of practice to the extent it is suffered to pass unchecked tends to take away the protection of the statute from those for whom that protection was intended, and to confer an unfair advantage on manufacturers who disregard the law over other manufacturers who obey it.

2. It is essential, therefore, that the inspector should act with vigilance and strict impartiality. He will invariably exhibit courtesy and forbearance towards all those with whom he may be brought into communication.

3. In the course of his duties occasions may arise when the inspector will be in a position to do good service by softening prejudices and promoting good feeling between employers and employed. In taking advantage of these opportunities he will observe the greatest discretion, and scrupulously avoid anything resembling interference with trade disputes.

4. He will appreciate the confidential character with which he is necessarily invested. He will accordingly abstain from using his position of inspector to make inquisitorial search into matters knowledge of which is not requisite for the discharge of his duties, and will be careful not to prejudice any private interests by disclosing in any unofficial communication, whether private or public, matters which become known to him in the course of his inspection, such as the extent of the works, the number of people employed from time to time, the nature of the work carried on, the sort of machinery used, &c.

5. In investigating complaints, wherever the information proceeds from a private or anonymous source, the inspector should be careful so to conduct the inquiry that it shall not point to an informant or lead to his becoming known.

6. In conducting the work of systematic inspection of the factories and workshops of his district the inspector will pay special attention to the following particulars :—

7. *Sanitary Matters.*—The inspector will see that the provisions in the Factory and Workshop Act which require cleanliness and ventilation in factories are duly observed. He will also make himself acquainted with such provisions of the law relating to public health as require cleanliness and ventilation in domestic factories and domestic workshops, and workshops in which neither young persons or children are employed, or as prescribe other sanitary arrangements in factories and workshops generally. He will be careful to note whether such provisions are complied with, and in any case of neglect whether the matter ought to be represented to the chief inspector, with a view to notice being given to the sanitary authority.

8. He will enforce the restrictions on the labour of women, young persons, and children in the unhealthy trades referred to in sections 38 and 39, and first and second schedules of the Act.

9. *Safety.*—The inspector will examine the hoists, dangerous parts of machinery, vats, &c., containing hot liquor, &c., and satisfy himself that the fencing and other arrangements which the Act requires for the protection of those employed are effectually maintained, and that such restrictions on labour as are imposed for the same purpose are duly observed.

10. *Employment*

10. *Employment and Meal Hours.*—With respect to those who are employed as *children* the inspector must (by verification of as many cases as he deems necessary) ascertain, in the case of a factory,—

- (a.) Whether the children had their names duly entered in the register at the commencement of their employment; and
- (b.) Whether they have certificates of fitness, either duly signed in the register or as separate documents applicable to the particular factory.

And in the case of either a factory or a workshop, whether whilst employed as children they have duly attended school, the school certificate book being carefully examined for this purpose, and, in the case of a factory, compared with the factory register.

It will be necessary to make special inquiries as to the attendance at school of children employed in domestic factories and domestic workshops.

11. With respect to those who are employed as *young persons*, the inspector must ascertain, in the case of a factory,—

- (a.) Whether they had their names duly entered in the register at the commencement of their employment as young persons; and
- (b.) Whether those under 16 years of age have certificates of fitness for employment as young persons, either duly signed in the register, or as separate documents applicable to the particular factory.

And in the case of either a factory or workshop, whether those under 14 years of age have educational certificates, either of proficiency or of previous due attendance at school; when necessary, he will require such certificates to be produced for inspection.

12. In a factory, and also in a workshop, he will observe if those employed include any children or young persons under 16 years of age, who appear to be incapacitated by disease or bodily infirmity, for working daily for the time allowed by law in such factory or workshop, with a view, if the chief inspector should deem it necessary, to notice being given requiring such children or young persons to discontinue work until examined and certified by the certifying surgeon.

13. In a factory he will take cognizance of any child or young person with respect to whose age it appears from his certificate of fitness that the certifying surgeon was satisfied on the production of evidence other than a certificate of birth, with a view to the annulment of such certificate of fitness, in case there should be reasonable cause to believe that the real age of the child or young person is less than that mentioned in such certificate.

14. In order to put a stop to illegal work, it will be necessary for the inspector so to time visits as to prevent or detect any encroachment on meal hours, or on the Saturday half-holiday, any unauthorised commencement or prolongation of the period of employment, any disregard of the conditions of a special exception duly obtained or any usurpation of a special exception by an occupier who has not given formal notice of it, or who could in no circumstances become entitled to it.

15. The inspector will require due notice to be given of any special exception, of any change in the period of employment, or meal hours, or of any change from the system of employment of children in sets to the system of employment on alternate days only, and in the case of a workshop, of any change to or from the system of not employing children or young persons.

16. He will see that the abstracts of the Act and that the prescribed notices as to period of employment, meal times, special exceptions, and other matters, are affixed in the factory or workshop, and are in a legible condition.

17. In all cases of serious infraction of the law he will endeavour, without delay, to procure on the spot evidence sufficient to sustain legal proceedings; and when it has been represented to him that some person other than the occupier ought to be proceeded against, and who was the actual offender, the inspector will take pains to ascertain whether the occupier has used all due diligence to enforce the execution of the Act, and whether the offence was committed without the knowledge, cognizance, or connivance of the occupier, and in contravention of his orders.

18. *Education.*—The inspector will visit the schools for the purpose of ascertaining that the registers of attendance of children in factories and workshops are duly kept, and will interest himself in the progress of elementary education in his district, both generally and with the special object of procuring for the department any information as to the standard which should be adopted for certificates of proficiency. He will also keep himself in communication with the school authorities of his district.

H.M. SUPERINTENDING INSPECTORS.

1. A superintending inspector will, in the execution of his duty, act under the instructions of the chief inspector.
2. He will exercise all the powers of an "inspector" under the Act, except such as by these instructions are specially assigned to the chief inspector.
3. He will superintend the work of the inspectors of his district, advising them generally, and especially in their prosecutions, and will himself conduct any case where it may seem desirable.
4. He will correspond with the occupiers and certifying surgeons of his district, laying before the chief inspector all matters of interest and importance.
5. He will visit the various factories, workshops, and schools in his district, either with the inspector, or alone, as may be deemed expedient.
6. He will receive the weekly reports of the inspectors of his district, and as soon as possible after their receipt, will examine, initial, and forward them, together with his own weekly report, to the chief inspector.
7. He will advise with the chief inspector in all cases of difficulty, or in which doubt has arisen as to the construction or administration of the Act, and will apply for and obtain his directions in the following cases:—
 - (a.) Before giving notice to the sanitary authority of any breach of the law relating to public health (s. 4).
 - (b.) Before serving on the occupier a requisition to fence machinery, vats, pans, &c. (ss. 6, 7).
 - (c.) Before temporarily sanctioning a school other than a recognised efficient school (s. 23).
 - (d.) Before fixing some other day than Monday for obtaining from the schoolmaster the weekly certificates of school attendance (s. 24).
 - (e.) Before applying for a justice's warrant to enter a dwelling (s. 69).
 - (f.) Before allowing certificates of fitness to be granted elsewhere than at the factory or workshop (s. 73).
 - (g.) Before fixing any special time for the payment to the certifying surgeon (s. 74).
 - (h.) Before commencing any prosecution.

H.M. INSPECTORS.

1. An inspector will, in the execution of his duties, act under the instructions of the superintending inspector of the district.
2. He is to reside in such place as may be assigned to him.
3. He is not to absent himself from his district without the sanction of the superintending inspector, and when absent must keep him informed of his address.
4. He is to address all communications in an official form to the superintending inspector, who will forward to the chief inspector such as contain matter for his consideration.
5. He is to send every week to the superintending inspector a detailed and full report of his employment on each day of the foregoing week.
6. He is to allow no other occupation to interfere with his official duties, but be at all times ready to perform any duty required of him by the superintending inspector of the district.
7. He will occupy five days in every week in inspecting, and will appropriate to office work one day in the week, either Saturday or some other day, but it is advisable that Saturday should be not unfrequently occupied by inspections conducted after the close of legal hours for work.
8. He will, when so instructed by the superintending inspector, lay informations for infringement of the law, and conduct the proceedings before the petty sessions.
9. He will exercise all the powers of an inspector under the Act, except such as by these instructions are specially assigned to the chief inspector or superintending inspector,

inspector, and except that he will apply to the superintending inspector to obtain the directions of the chief inspector in the following cases, viz. :—

- (a.) Before giving notice to the sanitary authority of any breach of the law relating to public health (s. 4).
- (b.) Before serving on the occupier a requisition to fence machinery, vats, pans, &c., (ss. 6, 7).
- (c.) Before temporarily sanctioning a school other than a recognised efficient school (s. 23).
- (d.) Before fixing some other day than Monday for the delivery by the schoolmaster of the weekly certificate of school attendance (s. 24).
- (e.) Before applying for a justice's warrant to enter a dwelling (s. 69).
- (f.) Before allowing certificates of fitness to be granted elsewhere than at the factory or workshop (s. 73).
- (g.) Before fixing any special time for the payment to the certifying surgeon (s. 74).
- (h.) Before commencing any prosecution.

10. He will arrange the work of the junior inspector of the district with whom he is associated, give all necessary advice and instructions, supervise the work done by him, and receive his weekly report and forward it to the superintending inspector. It will be the duty of the junior inspector to carry out all instructions which he has received from the inspector.

REGULATIONS under which TRAVELLING and other EXPENSES are to be charged by SUPERINTENDING INSPECTORS and INSPECTORS of FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

In the following regulations, except where otherwise specified, the term Inspector is used to comprehend both Superintending Inspector and Inspector.

1. Within seven days after the termination of each month the inspector will transmit his accounts for that month direct to the chief inspector.

2. The chief inspector after examining them will attach his signature to them, in token that to the best of his belief they are correct, that the charges for locomotion are strictly in accordance with Home Office instructions, and proper to be allowed. He will then forward them to the Secretary of State for approval and payment.

3. In the month's account are to be included all the expenses actually paid within the month, and no others: not, therefore, those expenses which, though incurred within the month, are not paid till afterwards.

4. All accounts should, as far as possible, be paid within the year within which they were incurred.

5. The expenses incurred by the inspector during the month will be classified in his monthly account under the following sub-heads :—

1. Travelling Expenses and Allowances ;
2. Prosecution Expenses ;
3. Incidental Expenses ;

a separate schedule being made out in respect of each sub-head.

Travelling Allowances and Expenses.

6. The inspector, in his weekly report and monthly account, must set forth his movements (whether on foot, on horseback, in a conveyance, or by railway) in their proper order and in such detail as to enable his route to be followed with facility on the map.

7. *Night Allowance.*—A superintending inspector is allowed 20s. and an inspector 15s. for every night when the discharge of his duties compels him to sleep from home. It will be his duty to return home, if he can reach it by a reasonable hour at a less expense to the public than would be incurred by his sleeping from home. Should he, however, on the return journey be unable to reach home before midnight he may charge the night allowance. On each occasion when he charges the night allowance, he is in his weekly report and the second column of his monthly account to name the place at which he slept.

8. *Day Allowance.*—(a.) An inspector appointed prior to 1st September 1877 is allowed to charge 3 s. for every day in the course of which he has visited any factory or workshop situated more than ten miles from his *central point*. This central point is in the town within which or near to which he resides, and is determined by the chief inspector with reference to the public service and the duties to be performed. On each occasion that the inspector charges such day allowance he must in his weekly report and the second column of his monthly account detail his movements during the day sufficiently to show the justification of the charge.

(b.) An inspector appointed since 1st September 1877 may only charge the day allowance when in the discharge of his duties he has been absent from his residence for not less than ten consecutive hours, and on each occasion that he charges such day allowance he must state in his weekly report and the second column of his monthly account the hour when he left his residence in the morning and the hour when he returned to it in the evening.

9: An inspector is in no case authorised to charge both day allowance and night allowance in respect of an absence from his residence for less than 24 hours. If, therefore, an inspector, having been absent for more than 24 hours, charges the night allowance in respect of the first night of absence from home, and the day's allowance in respect of the following day, he must state in his weekly report and in the second column of his monthly account the hour at which he left his residence on the first day and the hour at which he returned to it on the second day.

10. *Expenses.*—In addition to the day or night allowance as authorised by the preceding regulations, an inspector is allowed to charge for such expenses as have been *actually incurred* by him, provided that the same be authorised by the following regulations:—

11. It is the duty of an inspector where several routes or modes of conveyance are available to select the most economical. No departure from this regulation is permissible unless there are special circumstances which justify it in the interests of the public service; and such justification must in each case be stated by the inspector in his weekly report and in the second column of his monthly account.

In accordance with this regulation—

(a.) Where a railway is available, an inspector should use it. Failing a railway, he should travel by coach, omnibus, or tram car; and failing such public conveyance, he may hire a cab or horse.

(b.) If a railway be not used where apparently it might have been, the inspector must insert an explanation in his weekly report and the second column of his monthly account.

(c.) If the most economical route or mode of conveyance is not immediately available, the Inspector is bound to wait any reasonable time that may be necessary in order to avail himself of it; but he will not for this purpose remain a night away from his residence.

(d.) Wherever practicable, a return ticket is to be taken.

12. In charging for distances travelled by conveyance (other than railway carriage) from or to the place where he resides, the Inspector is to calculate the distances not from or to his own residence, but from or to his central point, provided—

(a.) That for visiting factories or workshops situated within the boundary of a circle described from the aforesaid central point by a radius of one mile in length he may not charge any expenses for conveyance.

(b.) That for visiting (without recourse to railway) factories or workshops situated beyond such boundary, he may charge for a public or private conveyance (if taken), but only for the distance for which he may have used the same beyond such boundary.

(c.) That when travelling *with luggage* to or from the railway station of the place in which his central point is fixed he may charge the sum expended for a cab or private conveyance (if taken) from his residence to the railway station, or from the railway station to his residence, as the case may be: such charges, however, not to exceed the amount of the ordinary fare for two miles; and in his weekly report and the second column of his monthly account he must state that he was starting on or returning from a railway journey *with luggage*.

(d.) That in travelling without luggage from his residence to the railway station of the place in which his central point is fixed, or from such railway station to his residence, he may charge for a *public* conveyance (if taken); such charge, however, not to exceed the amount of the fare of a public conveyance between the railway station and the central point.

(e.) That he may not in any case charge for a conveyance between the central point and his residence.

13. Where

13. Where the Inspector has proceeded by railway for the purpose of inspecting factories or workshops in the neighbourhood of a railway station at which he alights, he may not charge for conveyance for visiting any factories or workshops situated within one mile of such railway station.

14. In cases when from the exceptional inclemency of the weather an Inspector uses a cab or private conveyance within the limits prescribed by Rule No. 12, paragraph (a) and (b), or by Rule No. 13, he may charge the cab-hire expended, but in such cases the Superintending Inspector must certify that in his opinion the exceptional circumstances were such as to render the charge justifiable, and the Inspector must state in his weekly report and monthly account the reasons which rendered it necessary.

15. When he visits factories or workshops before the beginning or after the end of the period of employment, he may charge the cab-hire expended; but the fact of the visit having been made before the beginning or after the end of the period of employment is to be specified in his weekly report and in the second column of his monthly account.

16. Porterage may be charged for only when the expense of a conveyance is thereby avoided, but no gratuities to railway porters, messengers, or others, may be charged.

17. When an Inspector uses his own conveyance or saddle horse he must in his weekly report and monthly account specify the fact; and

(a.) If it is practicable to travel instead by railway or public conveyance, he is to charge only the sum which he might have charged if travelling by the cheaper of these means. For instance, if he travels in his own conveyance when he might have travelled by railway he is to charge only the railway fare.

(b.) In any other case he may charge, up to 15 miles, at the rate of 10 *d.* per mile if he used his own horse and carriage conveyance, and of 6 *d.* per mile if he used his own saddle horse. Beyond a distance of 15 miles only half these rates may be charged. The above rates will in any case cover all incidental expenses except tolls.

18. Should the Inspector, during leave of absence, receive a summons obliging him to return to his district for the discharge of his official duties, he may not charge any of the expenses incurred by him in his return beyond such expenses as he would have incurred in proceeding from his central point to the place which he is required to visit.

19. Every separate payment made in travelling, however small, and however numerous such payments may be, is to be made the subject of a separate entry in the Inspector's account. Accordingly,—

(a.) When on the same day he either uses two or more different descriptions of conveyance, or uses more than once the same kind of conveyance, the use of each conveyance, or each use of the same kind of conveyance (as the case may be), is to be treated as a separate journey and recorded in his account on a *separate line*; for instance, if the Inspector travels on the same day by railway to a railway station, there hires a carriage, and returns by another railway, his accounts should show three separate journeys.

(b.) As to each separate railway journey, he must specify the station from which and the station to which he travelled, the number of miles travelled, and the fare paid, each booking being entered separately.

(c.) As to each separate journey in a conveyance other than a railway carriage, he must specify the description of conveyance, the place from which and the place to which the conveyance is taken, the number of miles travelled in such conveyance, and, in separate items, the charge for hire of such conveyance, the driver's fee, and each toll paid, and each incidental expense. If the total cost of these items in respect of the same conveyance [excluding tolls] exceeds 25 *s.* a voucher must be produced.

20. When in the course of the month the Inspector makes the same journey more than once, and the expenses in one case are more than the expenses in the other, he will in his weekly report and in the second column of his monthly account state the explanation of the difference.

21. *Incidental Expenses* will include postage, carriage of parcels, &c. Postage expenses must only be for the stamps actually used on official correspondence as distinguished from those purchased with a view to their being so used. A detailed account of such postage must be given.

22. *Telegrams* sent on Government business are not to be prepaid.

The sender of the message should write on the message form, in the space appropriated for affixing the telegraph stamp, the words—

“ On Home Office Service.”

The telegrams should be expressed in as concise a mode as is consistent with clearness.

The Secretary of State trusts that all officers will exercise judgment and discretion in estimating the degree of emergency which will justify the transmission of free telegrams, so as to avoid giving occasion for complaint from Her Majesty's Postmaster General; and, with a view to the proper restriction of the use of the telegraph, he deems it necessary to point out the kind of messages which may *not* be sent free.

They are as follows:—

- (1.) Messages relating to public business, but not of sufficient important or emergency to render the use of the telegraph necessary.
- (2.) Messages relating to the engagement of rooms at hotels and hire of carriages.
- (3.) Messages relating to detention on official business sent for the personal convenience of the senders or addressees.
- (4.) Messages relating to leave of absence.
- (5.) Messages sent for the personal convenience or which relate to the private business of the sender or addressees.

Only servants of the Crown are entitled to send messages free of charge, as on the service of Government Departments. In cases, therefore, where the sender desires an answer by telegraph from a person other than a servant of the Crown, he may not insert the words “reply paid,” or words of like import, in the message, unless he has prepaid the cost of the reply as would be done by an ordinary sender.

The amount charged by the Post Office for portage on any telegram sent as an ordinary message, but relating to the official business of the addressee, can be recovered from the Post Office. In such cases it will be necessary that the Message Form should be forwarded to the Home Office, or, if this be from any cause impracticable, that the names of both sender and receiver, the name of the office at which the message was handed in, and the date, be furnished.

The cost of telegrams despatched by Coroners to give notice to the Inspectors of the occurrence of fatal accidents in factories and workshops is to be refunded to the Coroner in each case by the Inspector to whom the telegram is sent, who will charge the amount thus paid to the Coroner in his Incidental Expense Account, supporting the charge with the Message Form.

No charge, except as provided for in the preceding paragraph, will be allowed to any officer for telegrams or for prepayment of replies sent thereto, unless a special explanation of a satisfactory character be appended to the account in which the charge appears.

23. *Prosecution expenses* will include all legal expenses incurred in connection with prosecutions; also fees for certificates of birth. All bills for legal expenses, other than magistrates' clerks' fees for summonses, &c., must be submitted, before payment, to the Home Office for approval.

24. All sums received by an Inspector for attending any Court for costs in exercise of his official duties must be deducted from his monthly account. An Inspector should apply for costs in all cases in which he obtains a conviction.

25. *Vouchers* must be produced for carriage of parcels, for fees for certificates of birth, and in every other case where they can be obtained.

26. All stationery, &c., is to be procured from H.M. Stationery Office by requisition to be forwarded to the Chief Inspector, and no charge for such articles will be allowed.

27. No unusual or increased expense is to be incurred without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State, and when an account of such expense is rendered a reference must be given to the Home Office letter authorising the same.

28. If the Inspector desires to claim any relief of income tax in respect of the premiums paid for his life assurance, the receipts for the premiums paid during the year should be forwarded during the first week in March to the Accounting Officer, Home Office.

REGULATIONS as to VACATIONS.

1. Each member of the staff is entitled to a vacation of thirty-six week days.
2. This vacation may be taken as a whole, or at intervals.
3. Each day's absence from duty, excepting in case of sickness or other unavoidable cause, will form a part of the above vacation.

4. In

4. In addition to the above vacation, no duty will be expected on Christmas Day or Good Friday, or on the occasion of the public general factory holidays in the locality in which each member resides, unless special circumstances should require any duties to be performed.

5. If a member of the staff, instead of taking a public holiday, occupy himself in inspection in other parts of his district or in necessary office work, he may, in respect of every public holiday so occupied, add a day to his vacation.

6. For the purpose of these regulations as to vacations, public holidays will be deemed not to exceed twelve week-days in the year.

EDUCATION.

INSTRUCTIONS to INSPECTORS of FACTORIES as to PROVISIONS for EDUCATION of CHILDREN employed in FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

SUMMARY.

It will be the duty of the Factory Inspector to enforce—

- (a.) In factories and workshops throughout the United Kingdom the education provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and, *in addition*,
- (b.) In factories and workshops in England and Wales the provisions of section 4 of the El. Ed. Act, 1880, prohibiting the employment of a child under 13 before the child has obtained a certificate of having reached the standard of education fixed by bye-laws in force in the school district in which he resides, for the total or partial exemption of children of the like age from the obligation to attend school.

The provisions in the several Acts are set out below with explanatory remarks. Amongst them will also be found certain provisions in the El. Ed. Act, 1876, which are ancillary to the El. Ed. Act, 1880, and which will also explain the course of legislation.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1878.

Education of Children.

23. The parent of a child employed in a factory or in a workshop shall cause that child to attend some recognised efficient school (which school may be selected by such parent), as follows :

Attendance at school of children employed in a factory or workshop.

- (1.) The child, when employed in a morning or afternoon set, shall in every week, during any part of which he is so employed, be caused to attend on each work day for at least one attendance ; and
- (2.) The child, when employed on the alternate day system, shall on each work day preceding each day of employment in the factory or workshop be caused to attend for at least two attendances :
- (3.) An attendance for the purposes of this section shall be an attendance, as defined, for the time being, by a Secretary of State, with the consent of the Education Department, and be between the hours of eight in the morning and six in the evening :

Provided that—

- (a.) A child shall not be required by this Act to attend school on Saturday, or on any holiday or half holiday allowed under this Act in the factory or workshop in which the child is employed ; and
- (b.) The non-attendance of the child shall be excused on every day on which he is certified by the teacher of the school to have been prevented from attending by sickness or other unavoidable cause, also when the school is closed during the ordinary holidays, or for any other temporary cause ; and
- (c.) Where there is not within the distance of two miles, measured according to the nearest road, from the residence of the child a recognised efficient school which the child can attend, attendance at a school temporarily approved in writing by an Inspector under this Act, although not a recognised efficient school, shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed attendance at a recognised efficient school until such recognised efficient school as aforesaid is established, and with a view to such establishment the Inspector shall immediately report to the Education Department every case of the approval of a school by him under this section.

A child who has not in any week attended school for all the attendances required by this section shall not be employed in the following week until he has attended school for the deficient number of attendances.

The Education Department shall from time to time, by the publication of lists or by notices or otherwise, as they think expedient, provide for giving to all persons interested information of the schools in each school district which are recognised efficient schools.

Obtaining of school attendance certificate by occupier of factory or workshop.

24. The occupier of a factory or workshop in which a child is employed shall on Monday in every week (after the first week in which such child began to work therein), or on some other day appointed for that purpose by an Inspector, obtain from the teacher of the recognised efficient school attended by the child, a certificate (according to the prescribed form and directions) respecting the attendance of such child at school in accordance with this Act.

The employment of a child without obtaining such certificate as is required by this section shall be deemed to be employment of a child contrary to the provisions of this Act.

The occupier shall keep every such certificate for two months after the date thereof, if the child so long continues to be employed in his factory or his workshop, and shall produce the same to an Inspector when required during that period.

Payment by occupier on application of sum for schooling of child, and deduction of it from wages.

25. The board authority or persons who manage a recognised efficient school attended by a child employed in a factory or workshop, or some person authorised by such board authority or person, may apply in writing to the occupier of the factory or workshop to pay a weekly sum specified in the application, not exceeding 3*d.*, and not exceeding 1-12th part of the wages of the child, and after that application the occupier, so long as he employs the child, shall be liable to pay to the applicants, while the child attends their school, the said weekly sum, and the sum may be recovered as a debt, and the occupier may deduct the sum so paid by him from the wages payable for the services of the child.

Employment as young person of child of 13 on obtaining an educational certificate.

26. When a child of the age of 13 years has obtained from a person authorised by the Education Department a certificate of having attained such standard of proficiency in reading, writing, and arithmetic, or such standard of previous due attendance at a certified efficient school, as herein-after mentioned, that child shall be deemed to be a young person for the purposes of this Act.

The standards of proficiency and due attendance for the purposes of this section shall be such as may be from time to time fixed for the purposes of this Act by a Secretary of State, with the consent of the Education Department, and the standards so fixed shall be published in the "London Gazette," and shall not have effect until the expiration of at least six months after such publication.

Attendance at a certified day industrial school shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to be attendance at a certified efficient school.

Powers of inspectors.

68. An Inspector under this Act shall for the purpose of the execution of this Act have power to do all or any of the following things, namely:—

- (5.) To enter any school in which he has reasonable cause to believe that children employed in a factory or workshop are for the time being educated; and
- (6.) To examine either alone or in the presence of any other person, as he thinks fit, with respect to matters under this Act, every person whom he finds in a factory or workshop, or such a school as aforesaid, or whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be or to have been within the preceding two months employed in a factory or workshop, and to require such person to be so examined and to sign a declaration of the truth of the matters respecting which he is so examined; and
- (7.) To exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying this Act into effect.

84. The parent of a child or young person shall,—

Fine on parent for allowing child or young person to be employed contrary to the Act, or neglecting to cause child to attend school.

- (1.) If such child or young person is employed in a factory or workshop contrary to the provisions of this Act be liable to a fine not exceeding 20*s.* for each offence, unless it appears to the Court that such offence was committed without the consent, connivance, or wilful default of such parent; and
- (2.) If he neglects to cause such child to attend school in accordance with this Act, be liable to a fine not exceeding 20*s.* for each offence.

Definition of "certified efficient school," 33 & 34 Vict. c. 75. 36 & 37 Vict. c. 86.

95. The expression "certified efficient school" in this Act means a public elementary school within the meaning of the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 and 1873, and any workhouse school in England certified to be efficient by the Local Government Board, and also any elementary school which is not conducted for private profit and is open at all reasonable times to the inspection of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and requires the like attendance from its scholars as is required in a public elementary school, and keeps such registers of those attendances as may be for the time being required by the Education Department, and is certified by the Education Department to be an efficient school; and the expression "recognised efficient school" means a certified efficient school as above defined,

Definition of "recognised efficient school," 33 & 34 Vict. c. 75.

defined, and also any school which the Education Department have not refused to take into consideration under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, as a school giving efficient elementary education to and suitable for the children of a school district, and which is recognised for the time being by an Inspector under this Act as giving efficient elementary education, and the Inspector shall immediately report to the Education Department every school so recognised by him.

96. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

The expression “child” means a person under the age of 14 years :

The expression “parent” means a parent or guardian of, or person having the legal custody of, or the control over, or having direct benefit from the wages, of a child or young person.

General definitions.
“Child.”
“Parent.”

On 25th February 1879 was gazetted an Order of the Secretary of State prescribing, with the consent of the Education Department, standards of proficiency and standards of previous due attendance at school in England and Wales.

The effect of the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and the Order of the Secretary of State may be thus summarised :

A child (under 14) may only be employed for half-time, and must attend school once daily, or twice on alternate days.

But a child of 13 having been examined by the Certifying Surgeon, and certified as a young person by his certificate of fitness in the Factory Register, may be employed for full time, upon producing either (1) a certificate of having attained the Fourth Standard, or (2) a certificate of previous due attendance at school; the dates of which certificates have been duly entered on the Factory Register.

The Fourth Standard is as follows :—

Reading.—To read with intelligence a few lines of prose or poetry selected by the Inspector.

Writing.—Eight lines slowly dictated once from a reading book, copy books to be shown (improved small hand).

Arithmetic.—Compound rules (money) and reduction (common weights and measures).

The previous due attendance prescribed is as follows :—

An attendance is defined to be an attendance of not less than two hours' instruction in secular subjects.

The attendance must have been at a certified efficient school, as defined in Section 95 of the Factory and Workshop Act, *supra*.

The attendances must be those after a child has attained the age of five years.

If a child has attended several schools in any one year, the attendances in not more than two schools in the same year can be reckoned.

The previous due attendances, which need not be in consecutive years, but may be in any years after the age of five years, are 250 attendances in each of five previous years.

The certificates will be granted by the teacher of the school at which the child was examined, or by an officer of the local authority or local committee.

Explanatory Remarks on the above Provisions in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.

(a.) These provisions are imperative and irrespective of any requirements in the Elementary Education Acts. Consequently no attendance at school in pursuance of bye-laws, no exemption from bye-laws, and except in the case of children between 13 and 14, under Section 26 of the Factory and Workshop Act, no possession of any certificate either of proficiency or of previous due attendance at school, will constitute any excuse.

(b.) The offence in some instances may be committed by the occupier as well as by the parent, and it is the duty of the Inspector of Factories to enforce the provisions against both.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACTS.

Elementary Education Act, 1876, 39 & 40 Vict. c. 79.

Regulation as to employment of child under 10, and certificate of education of previous school attendance being condition of employment of child over 10.

5. A person shall not, after the commencement of this Act (1 January 1877), take into his employment (except as hereinafter in this Act mentioned) any child—

- (1.) Who is under the age of ten years ; or
- (2.) Who, being of the age of ten years or upwards, has not obtained such certificate either of his proficiency in reading, writing, and elementary arithmetic, or of previous due attendance at a certified efficient school, as is in this Act in that behalf mentioned, unless such child, being of the age of ten years or upwards, is employed and is attending school in accordance with the provisions of the Factory Acts, or of any bye-law of the local authority (hereinafter mentioned) made under Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, as amended by the Elementary Education Act, 1873, and this Act, and sanctioned by the Education Department.

Penalty for employing a child in contravention of Act.

Enforcement of Act by School Board or school attendance committee of existing local authority or by Inspectors of Factories or Mines.

6. Every person who takes a child into his employment in contravention of this Act shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings.

7. The provisions of this Act respecting the employment of children shall be enforced,—

- (1.) In a school district within the jurisdiction of a school board, by that board ; and,—
- (2.) In every other school district by a committee (in this Act referred to as a school attendance committee) appointed annually, if it is a borough, by the council of the borough, and, if it is a parish, by the guardians of the union comprising such parish.

A school attendance committee under this section may consist of not less than six nor more than 12 members of the council or guardians appointing the committee, so, however, that, in the case of a committee appointed by guardians, one-third at least shall consist of *ex-officio* guardians, if there are any and sufficient *ex-officio* guardians.

Every such school board and school attendance committee (in this Act referred to as the local authority) shall, as soon as may be, publish the provisions of this Act within their jurisdiction in such manner as they think best calculated for making those provisions known.

Provided that it shall be the duty of the Inspectors and Sub-inspectors acting under the Acts regulating factories, workshops, and mines respectively, and not of the local authority, to enforce the observance by the employers of children in such factories, workshops, and mines of the provisions of this Act respecting the employment of children ; but it shall be the duty of the local authority to assist the said Inspectors and Sub-inspectors in the performance of their duty by information and otherwise.

It shall be the duty of such local authority to report to the Education Department any infraction of the provisions of Section 7 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in any public elementary school within their district which may come to their knowledge, and also to forward to the Education Department any complaint which they may receive of the infraction of those provisions.

Exception to prohibition of employment of children.

9. A person shall not be deemed to have taken any child into his employment contrary to the provisions of this Act, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Court having cognisance of the case either :—

- (1.) That during the employment, there is not, within two miles, measured according to the nearest road, from the residence of such child, any public elementary school open which the child can attend ; or—
- (2.) That such employment, by reason of being, during the school-holidays, or during the hours during which the school is not open, or otherwise, does not interfere with the efficient elementary instruction of such child, and that the child obtains such instruction by regular attendance for full time at a certified efficient school or in some other equally efficient manner.

25. Where the age of any child is required to be ascertained or proved for the purpose of this Act, or for any purpose connected with the elementary education or employment in labour of such child, any person on presenting a written requisition in such form and containing such particulars as may be from time to time prescribed by the Local Government Board, and on payment of such fee, not exceeding one shilling, as the Local Government Board from time to time fix, shall be entitled to obtain a certified copy under the hand of the registrar or superintendent registrar of the entry in the register under the

the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1874, of the birth of the child named in the requisition.

37. Sections 23, 24, and 25, of the Elementary Education Act, 1873 (which provisions relate to legal proceedings and the forgery of certificates) shall, so far as applicable, apply in the case of offences and penalties under this Act, and proceedings for such offences and penalties and of certificates for the purposes of this Act, and in like manner as if those sections were enacted in this Act and in terms made applicable thereto.

Application of 36 & 37 Vict. c. 86., s. 23-5, to penalties, and punishment for fraudulently obtaining payment of fees.

And every person who shall fraudulently obtain or enable or procure any other person to obtain from any school board or local authority payment, or remission of payment, or an order for payment, or remission of payment of any school fees, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 14 days.

An order which a court of summary jurisdiction have authority to make in pursuance of this Act may be made in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.

39. Where the offence of taking a child into employment in contravention of this Act is, in fact, committed by an agent or workman of the employer, such agent or workman shall be liable to a penalty as if he were the employer.

Exemption of employer on proof of guilt of some other person.

Where a child is taken into employment in contravention of this Act on the production by or with the privity of the parent of a false or forged certificate, or on the false representation of his parent that the child is of an age at which such an employment is not in contravention of this Act, that parent shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings.

Where an employer charged with taking a child into his employment in contravention of this Act proves that he has used due diligence to enforce the observance of this Act, and either that some agent or workman of his employed the child without his knowledge or consent, or that the child was employed either on the production of a forged or false certificate and under the belief in good faith in the genuineness and truth of such certificate, or on the representation by his parent that the child was of an age at which his employment would not be in contravention of this Act and under the belief in good faith in such representation, the employer shall be exempt from any penalty.

Where an employer satisfies the local authority, inspector, or other person about to institute a prosecution that he is exempt under this section by reason of some agent, workman, or parent being guilty, and gives all facilities in his power for proceeding against and convicting such agent, workman, or parent, such authority, inspector, or person shall institute proceedings against agent, workman, or parent, and not against the employer.

47. A parent of a child who employs such child in any labour exercised by way of trade or for the purposes of gain, shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to take such child into his employment.

Definition of employment in case of parent.

48. A child in this Act means a child between the ages of five and fourteen years.

General definitions.

Terms in this Act shall, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, have the same meaning as in the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 and 1873.

The term "certified efficient school" in this Act means a public elementary school, and any workhouse school certified to be efficient by the Local Government Board, and any public or State-aided elementary school in Scotland, and any National school in Ireland, and also any elementary school which is not conducted for private profit, and is open at all reasonable times to the inspection of Her Majesty's Inspectors, and requires the like attendance from its scholars as is required in the public elementary school, and keeps such registers of those attendances as may be for the time being required by the Education Department, and is certified by the Education Department to be an efficient school.

50. Where any act, neglect, or default is punishable under this Act, and also under any other enactment, or any bye-law made by a school board or other local authority for the time being in force, proceedings may be instituted in respect of such act, neglect, or default under this Act or such other enactment or bye-law, in the discretion of the authority or person instituting the proceedings, so that proceedings under one enactment or bye-law only be instituted in respect of the same act, neglect, or default; and any bye-law made either before or after the commencement of this Act by any school board or other local authority under Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, if otherwise valid, shall not be rendered invalid by reason that it is more stringent than the provisions of this Act; and nothing in this Act shall prejudice the effect of or derogate from any provision relating to the committal of children to industrial schools or the employment of children contained in any previous Act of Parliament which may be more stringent in its provisions than this Act.

Construction of this Act with other enactments.

Elementary Education Act, 1880, 43 & 44 Vict. c. 23.

2. It shall be the duty of the local authority (within the meaning of the Elementary Education Act, 1876) of every school district in which bye-laws respecting the attendance of children at school under Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, are not at the passing of this Act in force, forthwith to make bye-laws under that section for such district.

Obligation to make bye-laws as to the attendance of children at school.

If at any time after the 31st day of December 1880 it appears to the Education Department

33 & 34 Vict. c. 7

ment that in any school district there are no bye-laws under that section in force, the Education Department may either proceed under Section 27 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876 (which relates to a local authority, who fail to fulfil their duty under that Act), or may make bye-laws respecting the attendance of children at school in that district, and the bye-laws so made shall have effect and be enforced and be subject to revocation and alteration as if they had been made by the local authority for that district, and sanctioned by the Education Department in pursuance of Section 74 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870: Provided, that where, in a school district, in which bye-laws are not in force a bye-law is made in pursuance of this section, that bye-law shall not prevent a child who, at the date of the bye-law taking effect, is employed in accordance with the Elementary Education Act, 1876, from continuing to be so employed.

4. Every person who takes into his employment a child of the age of 10, and under the age of 13 years, resident in a school district, before that child has obtained a certificate of having reached the standard of education fixed by a bye-law in force in the district for the total or partial exemption of children of the like age from the obligation to attend school, shall be deemed to take such child into his employment in contravention of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, and shall be liable to a penalty accordingly.

Proceedings may, in the discretion of the local authority or person instituting the same, be taken for punishing the contravention of a bye-law, notwithstanding that the act or neglect or default alleged as such contravention constitutes habitual neglect to provide efficient elementary education for a child within the meaning of Section 11 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876: Provided that nothing in this section shall prevent an employer from employing any child who is employed by him or by any other person at the time of the passing of this Act (26th August 1880), and who attends school in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.

Explanatory Remarks on the above Provisions in Elementary Education Acts, 1876, 1880.

(1.) As to Elementary Education Act, 1876.

Section 5 is divided into two sub-sections. The first sub-section, prohibiting the employment of children under 10 years of age, is identical with Section 80 of the Factory and Workshop Act, and calls for no further remark.

The second sub-section (which has been modified by the Act of 1880, Section 4,) is nominally applicable to factories and workshops, but practically does not impose any additional duty. For, in prohibiting the employment of children between 10 and 14 without a certificate either of proficiency or of previous due attendance at school it allows, so far as the employer is concerned, attendance at school in accordance with the Factory and Workshop Act to constitute an exemption, and that Act requires attendance from all children of that age, except such children between 13 and 14, as have, under Section 26, already obtained exactly similar certificates of proficiency, or of previous due attendance at school.

(2.) As to Elementary Education Act, 1880.

(a.) It does not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

(b.) By the Elementary Education Act, 1870, power was given to a school board, if they thought fit, to make bye-laws applicable to children between five and 13, rendering attendance at school compulsory, and in default subjecting the parent to a penalty; and when made it was obligatory on the School Board to enforce such bye-laws. The Elementary Education Act, 1880, by Section 2, makes it imperative on every school authority to make such bye-laws. There will therefore be local bye-laws in every part of England and Wales.

(c.) The effect of Section 4 of the Elementary Education Act, 1880, is not to assign to Inspectors of Factories the enforcement of bye-laws of the school authority against parents, but to create a statutory prohibition against employers from employing children subject to bye-laws (*i. e.*, children under 13) without a certificate of their having reached the standard of education fixed by the local bye-laws, and to declare it the duty of the Inspectors of Factories to enforce in factories and workshops that statutory prohibition as against the employer. The Inspector, therefore, will be concerned with bye-laws only so far as it may be necessary to him to refer to them for the purpose of ascertaining the standards of education fixed for children of the district according to their age. It is the intention of the Education Department shortly to issue a list of school districts, and the respective standards adopted in each.

(d.) The Elementary Education Act, 1880, Section 4, has thus removed the doubt which, owing to conflicting decisions given by courts of law, previously existed, whether children attending school in pursuance of the Factory and Workshop Act might plead such attendance as an exemption from the bye-laws of the school authority, and has established that such an excuse can no longer be pleaded (except in case of children who were in employment at the time of the passing of the Act, 26th August 1880).

(e.) On

(e.) On the other hand, the possession of any certificate, whether of previous due attendance at school, or of proficiency at school in accordance with bye-laws, or exemption from bye-laws, is no excuse for not conforming to the education provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act.

(f.) The prohibition (Section 4) of employment is subject to the permanent exceptions in Section 9 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, and to the temporary exceptions at the end of Section 2, and at the end of Section 4 of the Elementary Education Act, 1880.

(g.) With respect to prosecutions of employers for breach of the Elementary Education Act, 1880, the Inspector is referred to Sections 37, 39, and 50 of the Act of 1876. The Inspectors are authorised by Section 7 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, to avail themselves when necessary of the assistance of the local (school) authority.

(h.) The power of obtaining certificates of birth of children under 14 in the manner authorised by Section 25 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, will be available to the Inspector for the purpose of the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, 1880, or for any purpose relating to the Factory and Workshop Act; and in addition several school boards having made arrangements under Section 26 of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, for a systematic registration of the births of children in their respective districts.

(3.) "*Pit-banks.*"

By Section 93 and Schedule IV., Part II. (26), of the Factory and Workshop Act "pit-banks," are declared to be factories or workshops according to circumstances, and "pit-banks," are defined to be "any place above ground adjacent to the shaft of a mine, in which place the employment of women is not regulated by the Coal Mines Act, 1872, or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, 1872, whether such place does or does not form part of the mine within the meaning of "those Acts."

As the employment of women above ground in a mine subject to the Coal Mines Regulation Act is regulated by that Act, it follows that the only pit-banks to which the education provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, apply, are such parts of mines subject to the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts as are above ground.

But all provisions as to the education of children employed in pit-banks of the mines subject to the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act, whether such provisions are contained in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, or either of the Elementary Education Acts, 1876, 1880, are enforced by Inspectors of Factories, and not by Inspectors of Mines.

Home Office, Whitehall,
24 July 1882.

(signed) *W. V. Harcourt.*



